EXCERPTS OF TESTIMONIES

Dr. Steinar Berge and Oyvind Møller

The two Norwegians -- Dr. Steinar Berge and Oyvind Møller, a child care worker -- underwent an experience similar to Giannou's. Like that of the Canadian doctor, Berge's and Møller's complete testimony discusses: the role of the masked informers; the shutting down of hospital facilities; the labeling of prisoners; arrests without charges; Israeli disregard for valid identification papers. The testimony delves extensively on the issue of maltreatment of prisoners in the schoolyard in Sidon. Roughly half of these five to six hundred captives, they note, were subjected to physical violence. Printed below are excerpts from the Norwegian Department of Foreign Affairs' Report (June 24, 1982) on conditions in Lebanon. The testimony of Berge and Møller begins with their description of the school and detention camp in Sidon:

On his first day in the schoolyard, Møller witnessed actions taken against a group of prisoners. They were blindfolded and their hands were tied behind their backs. They were then lined up, and an Israeli soldier began driving his knee with full force into each captive's groin. When the prisoners subsequently crouched in pain, the soldier struck them over the back of their heads and neck. When they hit the ground, the soldier began kicking the captives in the stomach and face. In the end, the prisoners were gathered in a heap.

In another case, an aged man of around 60 years old stood up and tried, evidently out of despair, to kick an Israeli soldier. Five soldiers fell upon him immediately. He was beaten to the ground, and the troops began hitting him with wooden sticks and cudgels. All parts of the old man's body were hit and kicked: the top and back of his head, his face, stomach, shoulders, arms and groin. Berge estimates that the beating lasted around ten minutes. In the end, the man lay lifeless on the ground.

While in the schoolyard, they could hear screams -- "screams of pain" -- from the larger grounds nearby. They could also hear shots being fired there, but they could not tell if people had actually been fired on. Later, the two were taken into the larger grounds and forced to sit with their hands tied behind their backs and with their heads bowed. Their hands were later tied in front, and they were allowed to look up. They sat like this for 36 hours. The hot days and the cold nights bothered them considerably.

Among the weapons used to strike prisoners were thick table legs (both round and square) and clubs about two centimeters thick and up to one meter long. Stiff plastic tubing -- like garden hose -- and thick ropes, with knots or metal attached to the end, were also used. On occasion, Møller witnessed beatings with a table leg or club with a nail in the end of it. Plastic straps tied together to form a whip were also used. Captives were regularly kicked and hit with clenched fists and rifle butts.

On their second day at the school, Berge and Møller met a doctor whom they had known from the Red Crescent Hospital in which Dr. Berge had worked prior to the invasion. This doctor, a Dr. Nabil from the West Bank, had been educated at the University of Barcelona. When Berge and Møller spotted him, he was being dragged around the schoolyard. Israeli soldiers had placed a rope around his neck, and he was being beaten with sticks. The next day, the two Norwegians saw Dr. Nabil at the collection camp south of Sidon. He was sitting and staring blankly ahead. He had large wounds on his neck and back.