Statement by the Clergy of Ramallah. Sat. April 25th 1992

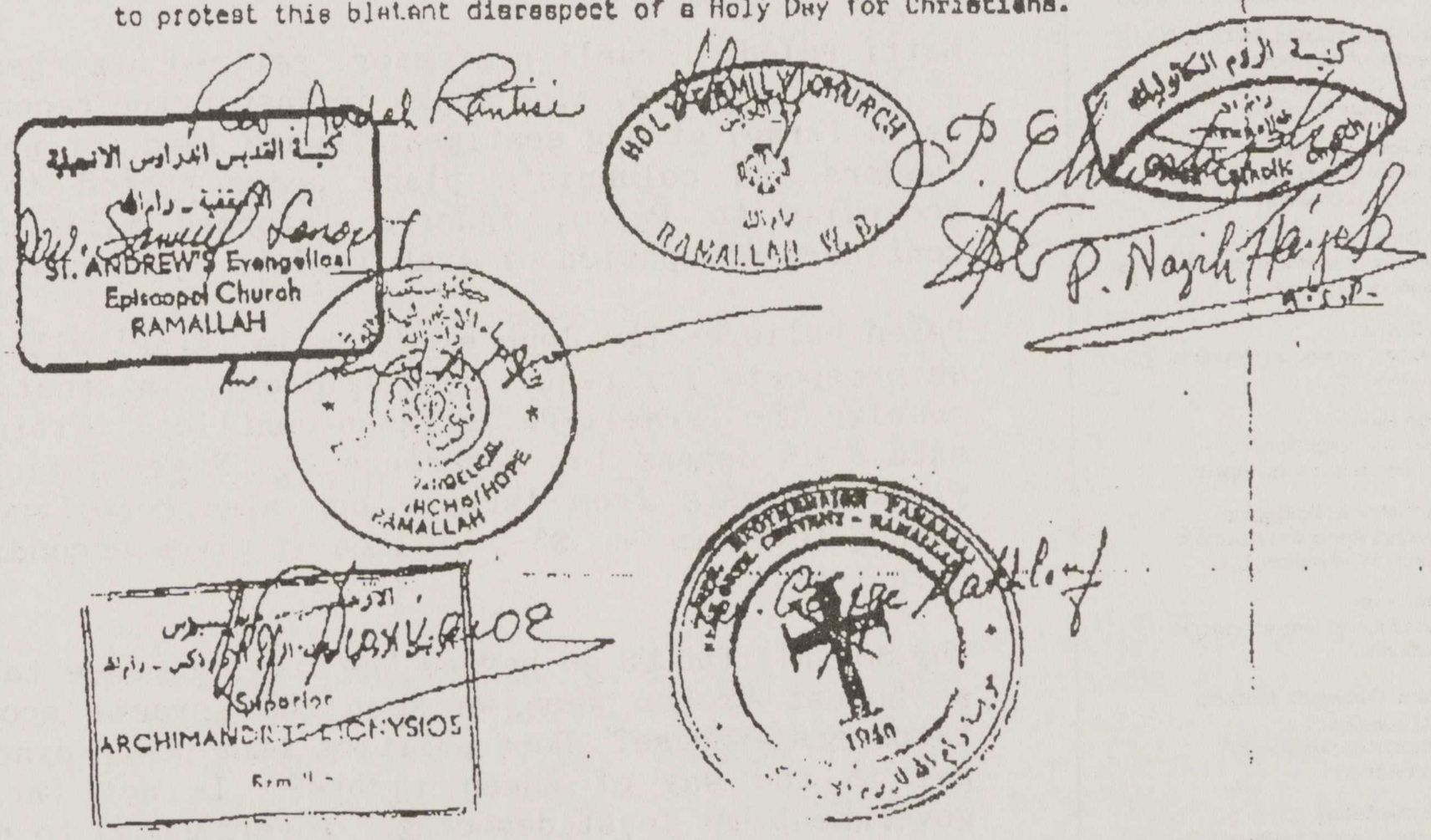
We the Clergy of Ramallah wish to make a public protest about the following incident that took place on Good Friday, April 24th 1992 at about 6.30 pm. at the Greek Orthodox Church in Ramallah.

An Israeli Patrol was passing by at the time of the special service for Good Friday. Worshippers were filling the Church and the Church courtyard so a big crowd had gathered. The soldiers went down the steps into the church courtyard and arrested a young man for no reason. This young man was dressed in Scouts uniform and was one of the ushers to organise people to church seats. The Army seemed intent on spoiling the spirit of the Easter Feast which is the most Holy Feast in the Church calendar.

Many people pleaded with the soldiers to release the young man. At first the Officer released him but another soldier grabbed him at the Church door. At this moment Father Christipher Butros from the Greek Catholic Church and Father Samuel Fanous from the Episcopal Church arrived to take part in the service. They saw the people greatly disturbed so Father Christipher tried to speak to the soldiers. Also Father Samuel spoke in Hebrew to explain that this is a very Holy day for Christians. One soldier lifted his hand in order to strike Father Christipher but the priest grabbed the soldier's hand. Other soldiers prepared to throw bombs and even threatened to shoot their guns. There was much confusion and excitement but finally the young man was released and the army left.

However, the army returned at the end of the church service and arrested another young man. The Greek Orthodox Parish Priest Father George Makhlouf talked to the soldiers, advising them to leave. Nevertheless, they arrested another young man, took him to an isolated spot and he was beaten very badly by 12 soldiers. This was for no reason at all.

We, the Clergy, on behalf of all people in Ramallah, condemn this act of harassement and brutality and appeal to all decent people of whatever religion to protest this blatant disrespect of a Holy Day for Christians.



AAPHR is an independent, non-political, non-ethnic, non-profit tax exempt educational corporation serving as an information clearinghouse.

Our staff is unpaid, but we do have expenses - printing, postage, and other customary office expenses. Tax deductible donations enable us to publish these Bulletins. And get them to Congress. Please contribute!

The clergy of Ramallah asked that you protest. Will you? You can do so easily, quickly, and effectively by calling:

White House	202-456-1111	State Department	202-647-6575
Your Senators	202-224-3121	Your Representative	202-225-3121