

Press Release

Spanish court to continue the investigation of the Shechade case

Yesh Gvul

www.yeshgvul.org.il

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A Spanish court has published yesterday (February 27, 2009) its decision to continue the investigation of the Shechade case.

This decision corresponds to the Spanish court's policy, and counters attempts made in vain by Israeli politicians to convince the public that Israel will receive preferential treatment at international tribunals. The Spanish judge has stated in his decision that it has been made, in part, due to the Israeli Supreme Court's rejection of Yesh Gvul's petition on this matter, submitted in cooperation with 5 prominent Israeli authors and poets: Amos Keinan, Yitzhak Laor, Ronit Matalon, Sammy Michael and Nathan Zach.

In the "Yesh Gvul" petition, submitted in September 2003, we asked that the Israeli Supreme Court (sitting as the High Court of Justice) instruct the opening of an investigation into the Shechade case: The dropping of a 1 ton bomb on a densely populated neighbourhood of Gaza in July 2002, killing 14 civilians, half of them children, and injuring around 150 innocent civilians.

Yesh Gvul has warned since the start that attempts to whitewash the investigation would lead to the indictment abroad of those responsible for this illegal and immoral act.

Yesh Gvul regards Israeli Supreme Court judges Dorit Beinisch, Eliezer Rivlin and Ayala Procaccia as responsible for the Spanish court's decision. Not only has their pitiful ruling to reject Yesh Gvul's petition paved the way for the Spanish court to investigate and try those responsible for the dropping of the 1 ton bomb, it has done much more, by signalling to IDF commanders and soldiers, as well as to the Israeli government, that no one will be brought to justice for the deliberate killing of innocent people, "since there are no longer judges in Israel".

Since such are the policies and rulings, even after the war on Gaza, the Israeli government refuses to conduct an independent investigation of its acts, some of which are alleged war crimes. Therefore, Israeli officers, soldiers and politicians may have to answer to foreign tribunals in the future, for these acts.

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