

The Psychological Effects of Military Service in the Occupied Territories on Soldiers and on Israeli Society

Israeli society entrusts the task of controlling and administering another nation, the Palestinian people, to the soldiers who serve in its army. These soldiers constitute the more or less exclusive interface between Israeli society and Palestinian society in the Occupied Territories. Their encounter with Palestinian residents - at the military checkpoints, carrying out arrests, and while undermining freedom in diverse other forms – takes place from a position of power, authority and control and very often involves infringements of basic human rights.

This study day will offer an opportunity to consider the psychological effects of Israeli military service in the occupied Palestinian territories, from the point of view of the soldiers themselves, and from that of Jewish Israeli society as a whole, which, while avoiding any direct encounter with Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories, dispatches its conscripted sons and daughters to serve there . We shall also look into the question of the extent to which these effects are dealt with and discussed in Israeli society, within the army, and among mental health professionals.

Sunday, June 28, 2009

Tel-Aviv University

Hall of Justice, the Trubowicz Law Faculty Building



**A Study Day by *PsychoActive* Group
Mental Health Professionals for Human Rights**

**The Tami Steinmetz Center
for Peace Research**



**The S. Daniel Abraham Center for
International and Regional Studies**



The study day will be held in Hebrew. Simultaneous translation to English will be available

Participation in this study day is free. **Registration recommended.**

For details and registration: kenes@psychoactive.org.il ♦ Tami Cohen: 0544-628618, Rony Shalit: 0546-466582



A Study Day by *PsychoActive* Group
Mental Health Professionals for Human Rights

Sunday, June 28, 2009
Tel-Aviv University, Hall of Justice,
the Trubowicz Law Faculty Building,

The Psychological Effects of Military Service in the Occupied Territories on Soldiers and on Israeli Society

08:30-09:00	Registration	11:45-13:30	Second session: <u>Concealing, Silencing and Silence</u>
09:00-09:30	Greetings: Efraim Lavi - The Tami Steinmetz Center Opening: Riva Bachrach - PsychoActive, Machsom Watch		Chair: Uri Hadar – Tel-Aviv University, PsychoActive
09:30-11:30	First session: <u>Testimonies</u> Chair: Riva Bachrach - PsychoActive, Machsom Watch Salt of the Earth? Israeli Soldiers, Army, and Society in the Intifada Yoel Elizur - Hebrew University To See If I'm Smiling – Parts of a film by Tamar Yarom Tal Ben-Sira Morag - one of the film's participants Givati's Cruelty and Liberal Morality Zvi Bekerman - Hebrew University		A Closer Look at Blurring, Denying and Silencing : Military Psychologists and the First Intifada Nissim Avissar - The Interdisciplinary Center Herzlia, PsychoActive The Discourses of "Psychology" and the "Normalization" Of Occupation Edna Lomsky-Feder - Hebrew University Dangerous Empathy: When Therapists Keep Silent about the Perpetrator Deeds of their Veteran Patients Arnona Zahavi - Beit Berl Academic College, PsychoActive
11:30-11:45	Coffee break	13:30-14:15	Lunch break
		14:15-15:45	Discussion in small groups: <u>The Presence of the Occupation in My Personal and Professional Life</u>
		16:00-17:00	Chair: Nahi Alon – Psycho-Dharma Closing Session: Psychological Coping of the Israeli Jewish Society with the Occupation and the Costs it Pays for it Daniel Bar-Tal – Tel-Aviv University