

# Patriarch blames policies for massacre in Palestine

MILAN, Italy (CNS) — The massacre of Palestinian workers by an Israeli and the subsequent Israeli military action against protesters is the result of the government's policy to extend its domination over Palestinian territory, according to Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem.

"In this way a road is followed which can only cause ever-stronger tensions," he said.

Patriarch Sabbah was commenting on the May 20 mass murder of seven Palestinians by an Israeli and the further killing of 10 Arabs. In addition, Israeli security forces wounded more than 700 Arabs in an effort to quell mounting protests in the aftermath of the mass murder.

Israeli authorities denounced the massacre, attributing it to a "deranged" person, and arrested an Israeli suspect.

An interview with the patriarch appeared in the May 22 Italian Catholic newspaper *Avvenire*, published in Milan. He was interviewed while visiting the northeastern

Italian city of Pordenone.

The actions are "the fruit of the policy followed with great determination by the Israeli government, which aims to extend its own domination to all Palestinian territories," Patriarch Sabbah said.

He said this policy was also evident in the recent occupation by 150 Israeli colonists in a building complex owned by the Greek Orthodox Church in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem.

Patriarch Sabbah expressed pessimism about the immediate prospects for settling Israeli-Palestinian conflicts, especially given Israeli problems in forming a new government.

"For more than one month in Israel, a government has not been able to get off the ground, and the reason for this is the unhealthy split that exists over the Palestinian situation," he said.

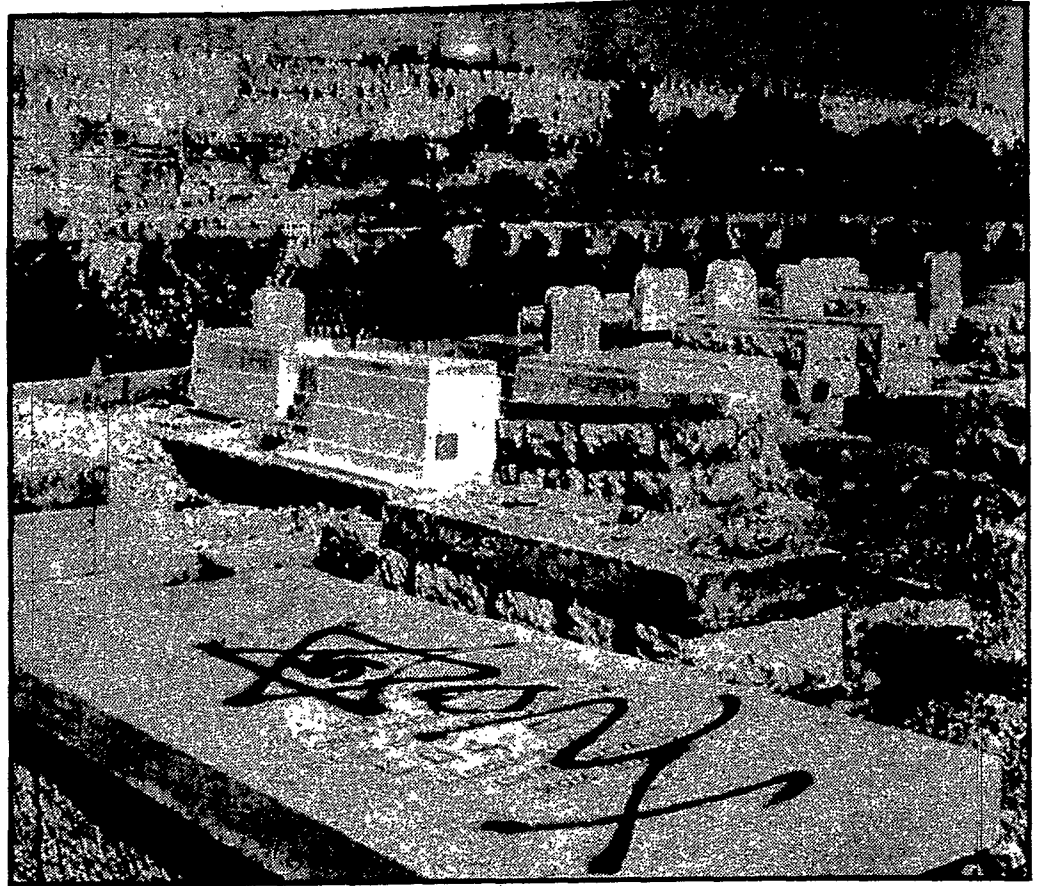
"If they will not accept the idea of dialogue, they will not form a government."

"I have high hopes, instead, for the movements open to dialogue and peace which are always gaining more footing in Israeli public opinion," he said.

Patriarch Sabbah blamed the current impasse in Israeli-Palestinian relations on Israeli unwillingness to engage in dialogue.

"The moment when I thought peace was near was when the Palestinian people recognized the right of existence of the Israeli population and chose the road of dialogue and non-violence," he said.

"We all thought that this would produce similar fruit on the other side. Unfortunately, this has not been proven true," he said.



AP/Wide World Photos  
A swastika and the word 'No' are painted onto one of the Jewish graves on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

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## Minister to speak at social ministry dinner

CORNING — The Rev. Dr. Johnny R. Youngblood, senior pastor of St. Paul Community Baptist Church in Brooklyn and a noted theologian, educator, administrator and spokesperson for the New York City's Nehemiah Housing Project, will be the keynote speaker for the third-annual dinner of Social Ministry of the Diocese of Rochester.

The dinner is scheduled for Friday, June 1, at the Hilton Inn. The Rev. Youngblood's speech is entitled "Empowering People: Working Toward a New Heaven and New Earth."

The Nehemiah Housing Project has been responsible for the construction of more than 1,200 homes.

Also during the dinner, Bishop Matthew H. Clark and Gaynelle Wethers, president of the diocesan Board of Social Ministry, will present the annual Bradley-Staub Award in recognition of significant service

— past or present — to the work of social ministry.

The award is named in honor of the late Sister Ann William Bradley, DC, former president and chief-executive officer of St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, and the late Father Jacob Staub. Sister Ann William was a strong advocate for serving the poor and sick and was known for her firm commitment to city neighborhoods. Father Staub was instrumental in organizing the diocesan Division of Social Ministry more than 70 years ago.

The diocesan Board of Social Ministry will also recognize staff and volunteers marking 10 years of service to the Rochester diocese.

"The evening is a celebration of gratitude for all who strive through social ministry to build a community of justice and love," said Father John A. Firpo, director of the Division of Social Ministry.

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