

Defence Ministry statement on evacuation of settlers, 28 September 1977.

Members of Gush Emunim have decided to establish a number of settlements in Samaria without getting prior government approval. On the night of 27-28 September the Israel Defence Forces were ordered by the Defence Minister, with the approval of Prime Minister Begin, to evacuate two groups from the Jericho and the Jenin area. On 28 September, after lengthy talks, Gush Emunim accepted the proposal of Mr. Begin to move into six military camps in the Samaria region rather than establish new settlements. Following is the Defence Ministry spokesman's statement:

In accordance with the guidelines of the cabinet, the Minister of Defence intends to maintain law and order in the areas under the responsibility of his ministry. Accordingly, the Minister of Defence, Mr. Ezer Weizman, on the night of 27-28 September ordered I.D.F. troops to evacuate two groups of settlers, members of Gush Emunim, who attempted to settle in Judea and Samaria without permission from the Israeli government. One of the two groups of settlers evacuated on the orders of the Defence Minister was heading for Jericho and the other was attempting to establish its settlement at the police station at Sanur, near Jenin.

Evacuation of the settlers by the I.D.F. troops went smoothly and without any hitches.