

**Judge Advocate General Headquarters
Office of the Commander**

Tel: 03-5696601

Fax: 03-5694526

38(l) 192322

10 Tammuz 5769 2 July 2009

Ms. Jessica Montell

B'Tselem – The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories

Via Fax

Dear Madam,

Re: **Your additional letter regarding shooting at demonstrators**

Ref. your letter of 17 June 2009

Ref. our letter of 15 March 2009

1. I studied your above-mentioned additional letter, in which you made claims regarding firing at demonstrators, using a 0.22-caliber rifle. You requested that I order IDF forces to cease using “live” ammunition, including Ruger and 0.22-caliber ammunition, when dealing with public disturbances in which the lives of IDF forces are not threatened.
2. As we noted in our above-mentioned letter to you, the Ruger and similar means are not classified by the IDF as means for dispersing demonstrations or public disturbances. The rules for use of these means in Judea and Samaria are stringent, and comparable to the rules for use of these means in Judea and Samaria are stringent, and comparable to the rules for opening fire with ‘live’ ammunition. If misleading information regarding classification of the means [use of 22-caliber bullets] has been transmitted to the media or to various organizations, it was done by mistake or due to a lack of understanding, and does not properly reflect the situation.
3. The fact that persons have been hit as a result of use of the Ruger or of similar means does not, in and of itself, indicate that the rules on the use of these means are lenient, or that they are classified as means for dispersing demonstrations. Naturally, each case must be examined in accordance with its circumstances, from the perspective of the binding rules applying to the various combat means.
4. In any event, recently, the binding rules for opening fire with these means have again been made clear to the relevant operational entities in Central Command. Also, the Command

will shortly be making an evaluation of the situation, headed by a senior Command official. The evaluation will include an examination of the lessons relating to the use of this means that have accumulated in recent months.

5. For some reason, we did not receive the disc (referred to in your letter) with footage of the incidents mentioned in your letter. I request that you forward the disc to us so that we can investigate your claims related to these events. However, I can already inform you that the description of the events has been sent to officials in Central Command for examination.
6. In conclusion, I once again emphasize that every case in which suspicion of illegal use of weapons arises is examined in its own right, and, where appropriate, measures are taken against anyone who acted unlawfully. For this reason, I cannot accept your general contentions on this point.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Avichai Mandelblit, Brig. Gen.
Judge Advocate General

cc: The Attorney General
OC Central Command
IDF Spokesperson's Office
Deputy State Attorney (Criminal) – Attorney Yehoshua Lemberger