

Israel Toughens Stance Against Palestinian Stone-throwers



Tel Aviv, September 25 (RHC)-- The Tel Aviv regime has moved to toughen measures against Palestinian stone-throwers in Jerusalem, broadening the rules that allow Israeli military forces to target Palestinians with live bullets.

"The security cabinet has decided to authorize police to use live ammunition against people throwing stones and Molotov cocktails," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement on Thursday. The statement added: "We have decided to penalize more severely adult stone-throwers with a minimum sentence of four years in prison and also to authorize larger fines for minors and their parents."

The announcement came a week after Israeli Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein approved Netanyahu's plan to change the rules of engagement and declare "war against stone-throwers and firebomb throwers" in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The top Israeli legal official also approved the arrest of minors and children under the age of 10 who throw stones, in addition to a fine of up to 100,000 Israeli shekels (about US \$26,000).

The new Israeli measure against Palestinian stone-throwers come as Israeli forces and Palestinians have clashed at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the Israeli-occupied Old City of Jerusalem over the past several days.

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