

Al-Quds University

Public Health College

Community Mental Health Department

**Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Related to Martyrdom
(loss), Imprisonment and Home Demolition**

Master Theses

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement of
the Degree of Master in Community Mental Health**

By

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Dedication

*To my mother and father, to
my brothers, sisters and their families,
to the souls of all the Palestinian martyrs,
to the prisoners, to all the injured and to all
the Palestinians who are suffering in the
Holy Land*

Declaration

I Certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of Master is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and that this thesis (or any part of the same) has not been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution.

Signed.....*Jamileh Khabil Maghalseh*

Date: *15.10.2003*.....

Acknowledgement

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Abstract

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Reactions related to the Loss of a Family Member as a Martyr, Imprisonment of a Family Member in the Israeli Prisons, and Home Demolition by Israeli Soldiers.

This research was done by Jamileh Maghalseh, supervised by Professor Ahmed Fahim Jaber and Dr. Taisir Abdalla. It was conducted in the Bethlehem area from September 28th, 2000, until the end of July, 2002.

This research is aimed at investigating the prevalence of PTSD reactions among Palestinian people subjected to losing a family member as a martyr, having a family member in the Israeli prisons, or whose houses were demolished by the Israeli soldiers in the Bethlehem area.

Results indicate evidence of a high prevalence of PTSD symptoms and reactions among these target groups. There were significant differences in PTSD symptoms and reactions prevalent for demographic, situational, and trauma related factors, except for social or employment status.

The prevalence of PTSD reactions among Palestinians who lost a family member as a martyr, was significantly higher when compared to those with a family member in the Israeli prisons or those whose houses were demolished. Also, results revealed higher PTSD symptom reactions among women and among the sample's middle-aged group.

The sample study was selected from all of the Bethlehem area, including cities, villages and camps, from males and females from the ages between 16 years old & above.

The results revealed the following:

1. There was a significant difference in favor of small village residents in the degree of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders and reactions.
2. There was a significant difference in the degree of PTSD and reactions in favor of the age group 26-35.
3. There was no significant difference in the degree of PTSD and reactions and reactions related to the social status of the study sample.
4. There was no significant difference in PTSD and reactions related to the level of education of the study sample.
5. There was a significant difference in PTSD and reactions in favor of Moslems.
6. There was a significant difference in the degree of PTSD and reaction in favor of family members who worked.
7. There was a significant difference in PTSD and reactions in favor of people having lost a family member as a martyr when compared to those having a family member in an Israeli prison.
8. There was a significant difference in PTSD and reactions in favor of people having lost a family member as a martyr when compared to those whose houses were demolished.
9. There was a significant difference in PTSD and reactions in favor of people having a family member in the Israeli prisons as compared to those whose houses were demolished.
10. There was a significant difference in PTSD and reactions in favor of females.
11. There was a significant difference in PTSD and reactions in favor of women who lost their husbands as martyrs.
12. There was a significant reduction in social, occupational, and other areas of functioning related to the traumatic event (Istishhad, imprisonment, and house demolition).

13. There was a statistically significant difference in the onset of PTSD reactions (delayed onset) in favor of people who lost a family member as a martyr.
14. There was a significant difference in duration of PTSD reactions related to the place of residence in favor of small village residents, in acute, chronic, and delayed onsets.
15. There was a statistically significant difference in the onset of PTSD reaction duration (delayed onset) in favor of females.

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