

# 22 PALESTINIANS KILLED IN BEIRUT

Are Reported Shot on Bus  
by Lebanese Rightists  
—Arafat Protests

By **JUAN de ONIS**

*Special to The New York Times*

BEIRUT, Lebanon, April 13—Gunmen of a right-wing Lebanese party opened fire today on a bus filled with Palestinian militants, killing 22 Palestinians, according to an official Lebanese communiqué.

The incident took place during the opening of a Christian church by followers of Pierre Gemayel, the leader of the Phalangist party, one of the principal Christian political groups in Lebanon, the communiqué said.

It said that the bus carrying Palestinians was coming from a rally organized by a guerrilla group to celebrate the first anniversary of the guerrilla attack on the Israeli border town of Qiryat Shemona.

Police sources said that the bus had been stopped by armed members of the Phalangist party and that shooting had broken out. Earlier today, a Phalangist party member was reportedly killed in the same neighborhood by shots fired from a passing automobile.

The incident was considered serious enough for the Palestine Liberation Organization, the over-all guerrilla group, to call an emergency meeting here.

Yasir Arafat, chairman of the P.L.O., sent messages to Arab chiefs of state accusing the Phalangist party of being "used by imperialism and Zionism" to promote a political crisis between Palestinian and Lebanese political forces.

The Phalangist, or Kataeb,

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party is a nationalistic group made up mostly of Maronite Christians and Greek Catholics. It has a militia force of several thousand and is opposed to the Palestinian guerrilla presence in Lebanon. Mr. Gemayel, its leader, is a member of Parliament.

Shooting was also reported later near Tel Zatter and Bourj Barajneh, two Palestinian refugee camps within this capital.

The shooting appeared to be between Palestinians and armed men of the Phalangist party.

## Arafat Charges Phalangists

BEIRUT, April 13 (UPI)—In a message from Damascus, Syria, Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said that those on the bus were unarmed civilians, including women and children.

Mr. Arafat said that 26 Palestinians had been killed and 19 more injured in "a bloody massacre" that "could lead to serious consequences."

The Phalangists said here that both Mr. Arafat and the Government had given mistaken accounts of the clashes and the number of casualties.

A Phalangist party spokesman denied Mr. Arafat's charges. The spokesman said that the shooting started when 24 guerrillas opened fire on Phalangists, killing three persons and wounding several others.

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