



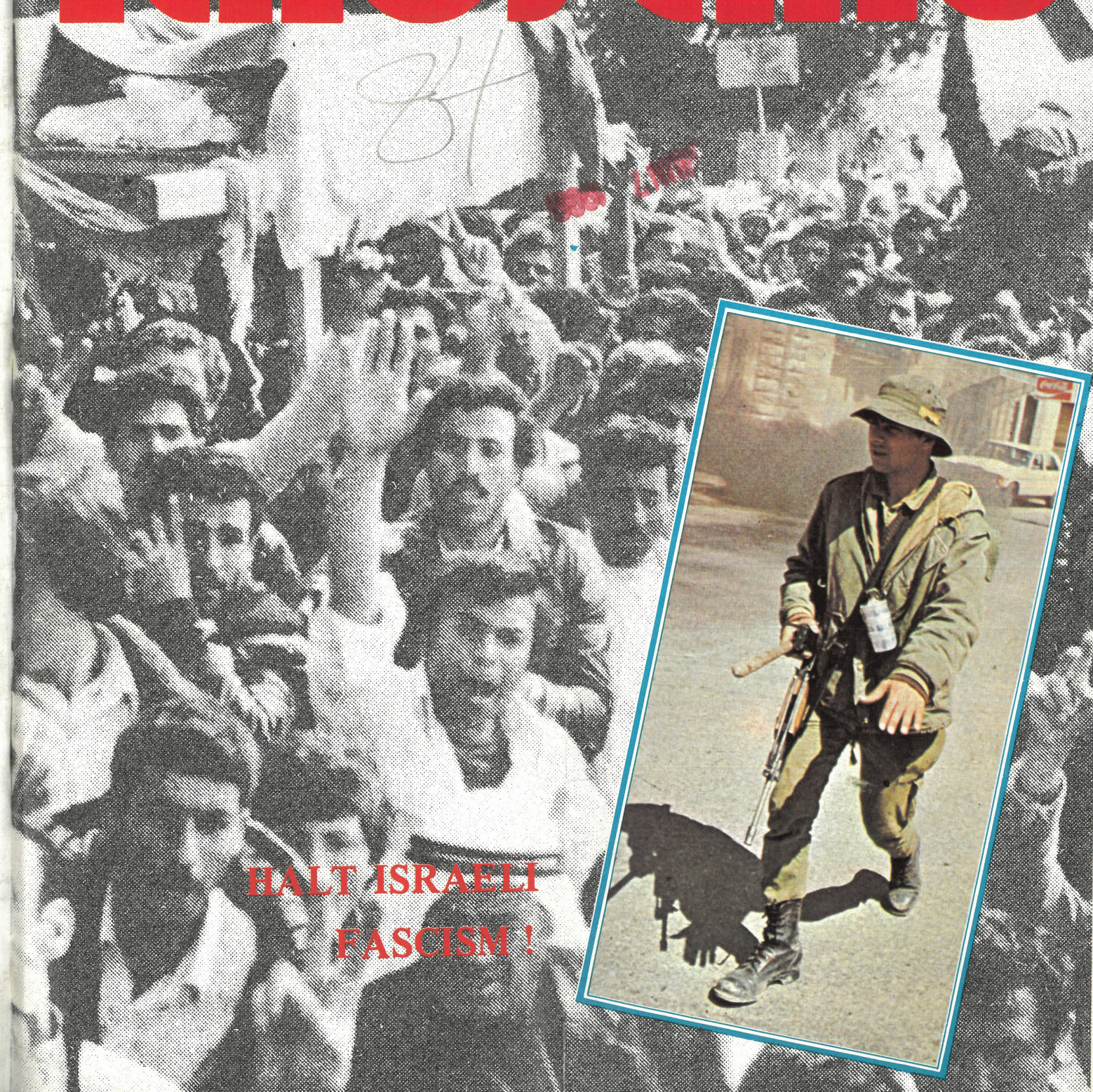
PALESTINE - SALVADOR:  
OUR PEOPLES WILL WIN

# Palestine

P.L.O.  
information  
bulletin

Vol. 2, No. 7  
1 - 15 March 1982

SPECIAL:  
PALESTINIAN UPRISING



HALT ISRAELI  
FASCISM!





## TO OUR READERS

Solidarity is an important weapon for helping the peoples of the world overcome oppression and injustice. The support and solidarity which the Palestinian people receive helps us to continue our just struggle for our just cause. We are grateful for the solidarity and support we get, but although we have many friends around the world, our enemies are still strong and formidable. They are better armed, better equipped, and much wealthier than we.

Nevertheless, though we may possess limited means, our determination and willingness to sacrifice is unlimited. The world forces of liberation, of which we are proud to be a part, are the emerging forces, and it is to us that the future belongs. The forces of oppression have had their day, and shall be consigned to the dustbin of history.

We thank all of our friends throughout the world for the letters of support and encouragement you have sent to us. Surely, we and other liberation movements will continue on the road to victory.

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## EDITORIAL

# ISRAELI COLONIALISM

The Israeli occupation forces are still stepping up their provocations against the civilian population in the occupied territories. The Israeli military junta believes that the time has come to clear the West Bank and Gaza from what they call PLO supporters and sympathizers. The crack down on the civilians, the closure of the universities, the suspension of newspapers, and finally the shooting at the demonstrators and the killing of some of them, in addition to the mass arrests and all kinds of other repressive measures, these are the common and daily practices. Begin and Sharon think that the time has come to clean the West Bank and the Gaza of the mayors whom they accuse of fomenting hotbeds of terrorism. The Israelis believe that those mayors who were elected under their occupation in 1976 are an obstacle to their creeping annexation of the West Bank and Gaza. To justify the removal of the mayors the Israelis claim that they had been elected under "PLO threats and terrorism."

Well, this is the last of arguments. If this was true, then one should give credit to the PLO which presents itself stronger in those territories than the Israeli occupants. Or one must say, it is true that the Israelis occupy the West Bank and the Gaza since 15 years, but the PLO occupies the hearts and the heads of the civilian population in these territories. Further, one should say that the Israelis represent the ugly face of the occupation, while the PLO represents hope, future, freedom and dignity.

But the arrogant mentality of occupation does not understand the feelings and the senti-

ments of a people living under terror. So was it the case with the United States in Vietnam, or the French in Algeria, and in many other examples. But Begin and his clique think, that if the mayors are killed or removed, then the rebellion will be silenced, forever. They also hedge the illusion that if only the mayors are removed, they would be able to remove the PLO out of the heads of the civilian population.

For this very reason the Israelis calculate that the PLO should be totally liquidated in Lebanon. The Israelis are talking about, and preparing for, a large-scale operation against the PLO forces in Lebanon in order to complete the scenario of Israeli logic: If the PLO is liquidated inside the occupied territories through the removal of the mayors, and in southern Lebanon through a military aggression, then the Israelis can sleep a long and quiet night. The Israeli arrogant mind even believes that the Palestinians and the Arabs like to be occupied and humiliated by them. Or they believe that by repression and aggression they can turn the Palestinians into obedient and tame animals.

If the Israelis want to drive the PLO out of the heads of the Palestinians, then the best way will be to liquidate all the Palestinians, in the occupied territories and elsewhere. Every human being loves freedom, and the Israelis should draw lessons from old and recent history. They should understand that the Palestinians love their land and their freedom as all nations in the world do. Being a colonialist in the last part of the 20th century, the Israelis should be aware by now, that there is no more room for classical colonialism in this modern world.

# Palestine

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## P.L.O. ON THE UPRISING

### ARAFAT ADDRESSES MASS SOLIDARITY RALLY ON DAY OF THE LAND



On March 30, the Day of the Land, the Palestinian and Lebanese masses expressed their firm cohesion and solidarity with the heroic struggle of the Palestinian and Arab people in the occupied territories. A huge demonstration estimated at 100,000 people marched through the streets of Beirut and ended at the UNESCO complex where a rally in solidarity with the popular uprising in occupied Palestine and the Golan Heights took place. Speeches were delivered on behalf of various Arab and International progressive and democratic organisations and parties. Chairman Arafat addressed the rally. Following are some excerpts of Arafat's speech:

"Brothers, comrades-in-arms, friends, our people in the Syrian Golan, in steadfast south Lebanon, in Bint Jbeil and Marjeyoun, in Galilee, in the Triangle, in Haifa, Jaffa, in Asqalan, in the Naqab, in Rafah, Khan Younis, in Gaza, in Hebron, in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin and all the occupied territories: you who have transformed the stones of our homeland into time bombs which strike fear into the enemy's heart and herald the defeat of the Zionist foe and its U.S. imperialist protector."

"I address these words to the whole Arab nation, and as Saladin said, I do not want your prayers; I want your swords to fight with us on this Arab revolutionary land of Lebanon which welcomed us and sacrificed so much for us."

"I assure the Lebanese people that Lebanon represents to us merely a passage and not a place to settle in. It is more than enough that it has harboured the Revolution, and offered martyrs who each day fall victim to American bombs and American planes piloted by Israelis, to car-bomb explosions, the Zionist trademark which Begin is using now as he did of old."

Arafat added: "Blessed is this Lebanese people for harbouring our Revolution. Whatever we do, we can never repay them their due. I am certain that this noble Arab country will return to its previous condition, but Arab, democratic and progressive. We have to bear together this suffering until the Arabs wake up, until our nation wakes up and follows us, joins us in Beaufort Castle where our fighters are."

"Everybody knows that when Philip Habib came to the area, he not only met with Sharon, Begin, and Shamir, he also met with the officers in the operations room of the Israeli army, which is an extension of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East."

Arafat went on: "Our people, with their mass uprising... wish to say to our Arab nation that

they offer it truce until it manages to unite its ranks and follows us. I speak in the midst of this dark night, from which a dawn will rise bringing the hopes of our Arab people in the occupied territories to redeem us and this Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian Revolution, to relieve us from some of the blows and some of this Israeli arrogance. I tell Begin, Sharon and Shamir and their whole military junta that we know that the force with which they strike is nothing but an expression of American strength moving in accordance with orders from the White House."

"With this magnificent uprising, men, women and children come forward feeding their flesh to Israeli tanks and under bullets, but still they come forward. I recall that a few days ago Reagan made a big fuss over Walesa in Poland because he could not attend his son's christening. But, Mr. Reagan, where are your words when children are being killed in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and in Golan. I ask who is talking about human rights, do our children not count... I ask our Arab nation this question, and it is my right to do so in the same of this steadfast people in the Golan and south Lebanon and occupied Palestine."

"You know that the Lebanese coasts are blockaded on orders from Begin and under the protection of the Sixth Fleet. They are preparing something, but we are awaiting them. I am banking on these heroes who triumphed last July in the South against the American war machine. I challenge them through the people

inside our occupied territories who will change the balance and transform the political map in this area. I say these words so that Reagan will hear me before Begin, I tell them there will be no peace, stability, or a solution in the area, by leaping over the rights of the Palestinian people. They are inalienable and they include the right to return, self-determination and the establishment of the state of Palestine with Jerusalem as its eternal capital."

"Our people are not standing alone as they wage this bitter fight. They struggle beside all the liberation movements; the revolutionaries of El Salvador and the Caribbean, and the free people in the world who fight colonialism, racial discrimination, fascism and Nazism. Our people are fighting terrorism organised on orders from the White House. I say, take a lesson from Sadat; and Sadats are plentiful in the region, but this nation will get rid of all these new Sadats and will draw a new map of the region together with the Lebanese fighter."

"I don't care about 'civil administration' or, 'administrative autonomy'. The only solution is for us to liberate our land, and we do not stand alone. All the free people of the world, from the Non-Aligned states to the Islamic and Socialist States, at the head of which is the Soviet Union, they all support us"...

"I say these words that our Arab nation may hear that we stand by our pledge, and we shall fight inside our territories with every child, man, and woman so that we can draw together the map of the area."

### ARAFAT APPEALS TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND OAU PRESIDENT

On March 23, Chairman Arafat, sent a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar regarding the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories which is becoming increasingly tense. The racist Israeli occupation authorities continue their vicious oppressive actions against the masses and against professional, social, educational and trade union organizations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip.

The message stressed the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people against the Zionist occupation. It also stressed that Israeli measures are a flagrant violation of international laws as stipulated in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The message denounced the American stand at the UN and the unlimited U.S. support for Israel's

aggressive policies. Arafat concluded by urging "the United Nations and all its agencies and organizations to shoulder their responsibilities in accordance with UN resolutions, conventions and charters, in order to restrain this ongoing Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people and their national rights. We further hope that the Palestinian people's just legitimate struggle will receive all your support and backing."

Arafat also sent letters to the President of the Organization of African Unity, Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya, and the OAU's General Secretary. The letters dealt with the current situation and the popular uprising in the occupied territories, as well as Palestinian-African relations and the common struggle the two peoples are waging against imperialism, racism and Zionism. Arafat praised the OAU's support for, and solidarity with, the struggle of the Palestinian people, and thanked President Moi for his principled stand on these issues.



## "LAND DAY" DEMONSTRATION IN BEIRUT

Over 100,000 Lebanese and Palestinians took to the streets of Beirut and other Lebanese towns on March 30, to celebrate the Palestine "Land Day". People assembled in various neighbourhoods and Palestinian refugee camps to join the main demonstration which headed for the UNESCO complex, where a huge rally was held. The rally was addressed on behalf of the Lebanese government by cabinet minister Marwan Hamadi. He underlined that the struggle for the land, threatened by Israeli expansion and annexation, was a common one for both the Palestinian and the Lebanese people, since the Zionist aggression did not halt in Palestine. George Hauwi on behalf of the Lebanese National Movement and Mohammed Haider on behalf of Syria addressed the rally. Then Chairman Arafat spoke on behalf of the PLO (see special item). A solidarity message from the Shi'ite Amal movement was also read out.

The mighty demonstration included all sectors of the Palestinian and Lebanese people, with many organisations represented in the different contingents. It was an impressive answer to all the attempts to create dissension and splits within the Palestinian and Lebanese national ranks, the main aim of all the terror operations and psychological warfare carried out by Israel and its local agents against the people in Lebanon. It was a demonstration to show full support for the courageous uprising of our people, who are defending their land against the "autonomy" and "civil administration" plots under the cover of Camp David to perpetuate the Israeli occupation.

## PLO COMMUNIQUE ON U.S. VETO

*On April 2, the UN Security Council voted a resolution calling on Israel to rescind its decisions concerning the ousting of the Mayor of al-Bireh, Ramallah and Nablus. Only the U.S. vetoed the resolution. The PLO Executive Committee issued a communique denouncing the U.S. veto which came in support of Israeli fascist practices in the occupied territories. The communique read:*

"The results of the veto indicated that all the members of the Council, with the exception of the U.S. denounce the Zionist enemy's actions and demand the cancellation of the decisions to dismiss Shak'a, Khalaf and Tawil and the members of the al-Bireh Municipal Council. These results point to the isolation of the U.S. internationally and American complicity and participation in the Zionist enemy's escalating aggression, oppression and murder inside and outside the occupied territories, and total U.S. support for Israel in its policies.



*Mass Solidarity in Lebanon for the uprising in occupied Palestine*

"The PLO Executive Committee denounces the U.S. stand, which is hostile to the most basic human rights and to the UN Charter. The U.S. proves that it has adopted terror as an official policy which it defends whether this terror takes the form of murder and oppression of our people or attacks on popularly elected institutions. It is a further proof of U.S. support of all forms of occupation, racism and for fascist and dictatorial regimes and of its hostility to democracy, legitimacy and the bases of international law.

"The PLO Executive Committee calls on the fraternal Arab states to shoulder their responsibilities in this critical phase, by taking effective political and economic sanctions against the U.S. and not limiting their stands to mere denunciation and condemnation.

"Our militant people will continue their struggle against the Zionist enemy and its allies relentlessly, with all the Arab peoples and forces of liberation and progress in the world on their side."

## NON-ALIGNED BUREAU CONFERENCE: "MANDATORY SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL"



*The presidium at the opening session: r to l: Chairman Arafat, Kuwaiti foreign minister sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed, Cuban foreign minister and U.N. General Assembly's President Kittani*

An extraordinary meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries convened in Kuwait from April 5 to 8, dealing especially with the aggravation of the Palestine problem and the general Middle East situation, due to Israel's increasing aggressiveness expressed in its brutal terror in the occupied territories and in its daily threats against Lebanon, the PLO and Syria. The conference also reviewed the efforts to halt the Iraqi-Iranian war.

In its final communique issued on April 8, the conference expressed "its profound inquietude over the persistent efforts to impose the clauses of the Camp David accords which pretend to determine the future of the Palestinian people." The participants also "rejected any initiatives aiming at enlarging these accords." They equally "expressed their anxiety over the deployment of foreign troops on the territories of Non-Aligned countries in the Middle East or close to them."

The conference called on all states and organisations to facilitate the initiatives of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, recalling that the Non-Aligned countries have recognized the PLO's right to combat "with all possible means any solution contrary to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

The ministers and representatives of 70 countries represented in Kuwait called for the "complete isolation of Israel", and demanded

that the UN Security Council apply urgently complete and mandatory sanctions against Israel." They reaffirmed their support for the struggle of the countries neighbouring Palestine: Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

The final communique also appealed to the United Nations to undertake a new initiative for a political settlement of the Middle East problem. The conference called on the Secretary General of the U.N., Javier Perez de Cuellar "to establish contacts with all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict with the aim of achieving a global settlement in the Middle East."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat addressed the conference on April 6. He praised the resolution issued by the Non-Aligned Movement's Conferences that expressed full support for the Palestinian people's rights. Arafat then spoke about the popular uprising in the occupied territories, which is being subjected to Israeli oppression and being faced with the Israeli war machine supplied by world imperialism headed by the U.S. Arafat called for the support of the Palestinian people saying that the current concentration of Israeli forces to launch an operation against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, and what South Lebanon witnessed in the way of Israeli crimes reveal the ugly and continued conspiracies executed by the Zionist enemy. Chairman Arafat also called for an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran War as a matter of high priority.

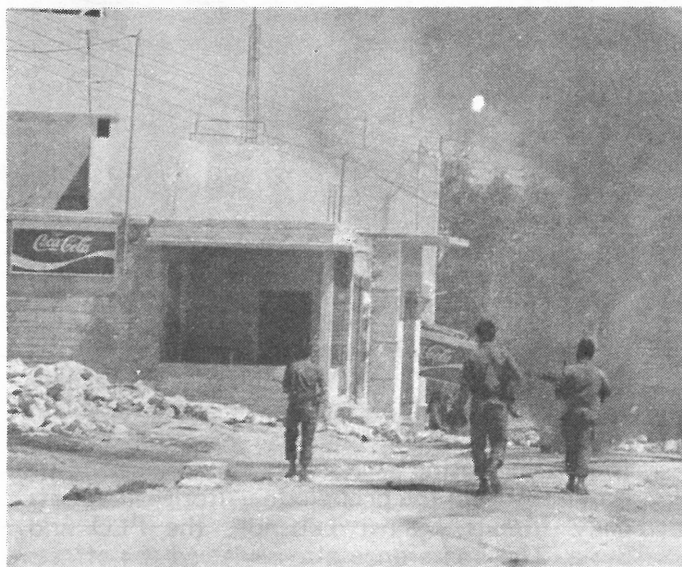


Zionist Troops and Settlers  
Kill 8 Palestinians; Wound 50  
Hundreds Arrested

## GENERAL UPRISING HITS WEST BANK, GAZA, GALILEE



*West Bank children confront repression*



*Zionist jackboots patrol Palestinian streets*

As we go to press the general Palestinian uprising in the West Bank, Gaza and now in the 1948 occupied areas of Palestine is continuing in full force. The Zionist head of the "civil" administration in the West Bank has termed the current struggle the most decisive one successive Zionist governments have engaged in since the creation of the Zionist entity in 1948. Zionist War minister Sharon has called it a war to eliminate the PLO support among the Palestinian population under occupation. To wage the war, mayors of three of the largest towns in the West Bank have been ousted from office and Zionist functionaries of the "civil" administration have been installed in their place. Israeli troops have been reinforced throughout the West Bank and Gaza and have indiscriminately gunned down Palestinian demonstrators. The savagery of the Israeli troops has been accompanied by renewed rampages by Zionist settlers in the West Bank creating added deaths, kidnappings of Palestinian young people and property damage.

The current upsurge in resistance to the Zionist occupation was triggered on March 18 when Israeli

troops moved on the al-Bireh municipality building, ousted the town's council and removed the mayor, Ibrahim al-Tawil. West Bank mayors had predicted an escalated Zionist campaign to oust them from office and replace them with Palestinian quislings from the Israeli-created village leagues. Sensing the inevitable, al-Tawil had refused to meet with the head of the "civil" administration Menachem Milson several days before his removal. Milson and Sharon then sent in the troops.

The first reaction to the Israeli military takeover of the al-Bireh municipality came from Palestinian women in the town who marched to the building in force to confront the Israeli troops. Nablus Mayor Bassam Shak'a quickly responded to the attack on al-Bireh by joining with his municipal council in declaring a 3-day general strike. The Ramallah municipality followed in calling for a general strike and Mayor Karim Khalaf stated to reporters that the new Israeli attacks "will not succeed in making us recognize the civil administration which it appointed." The uprising was beginning.

On March 19, all the towns and villages in the West Bank adhered to the call for a general strike. In the morning, Zionist military authorities stopped the distribution of the Palestinian Arabic newspapers which carried the news of the dismissal of Mayor al-Tawil and the al-Bireh municipal council. The 19th was a Friday which is a day of prayer for Palestinian Muslims. In Palestinian towns shops are often closed on this day anyway. The Israeli military concentrated their force in the vicinity of the mosques in Palestinian towns. In Jerusalem, the al-Aqsa Mosque was surrounded by troops and the roads leading to it were blocked. Sheikhs in the mosque added their call to support the general strike. While the day was generally quiet, Zionist troops initiated an unprecedented campaign of mass arrests. Reports reaching outside indicated that in the 48 hours after the forceable dissolution of the al-Bireh municipal council, over 120 Palestinians were detained by the Zionist military authorities.

Among those who were detained on the second day of the strike, were two mayors who were to become the next victims of the Israeli attack against West Bank municipalities. Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf was detained for four hours by Israeli troops after he had met with Anabta Mayor Wahid Hamdullah. Hamdullah was seized at 1:30 in the morning and held all night. Several days later he was dragged before a Zionist military court in Tulkarem and charged with violating a restricted movement order earlier imposed on him. At this writing, Hamdullah's case is still pending, but is the definite prelude to his ultimate dismissal as mayor of Anabta.

### Beginning of the Massacre

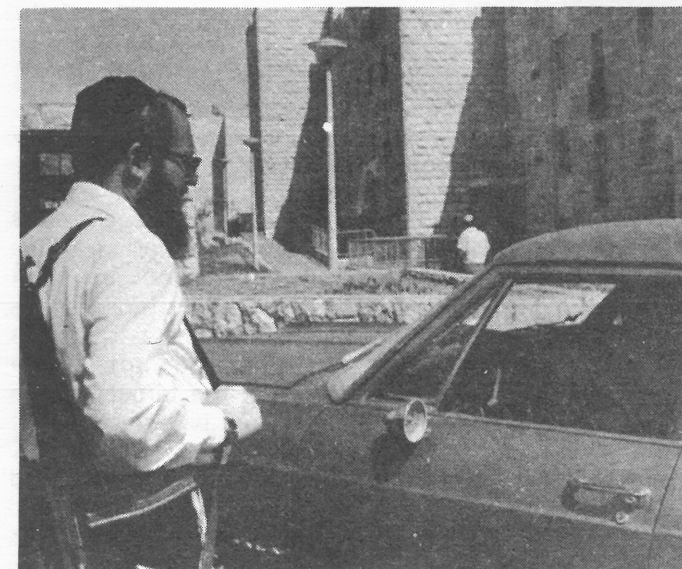
On March 20, Israeli troops began to implement a systematic policy of brutal savagery in an attempt to crush demonstrations which broke out now in both the West Bank and Gaza. Soldiers were ordered to fire live ammunition at young Palestinian demonstrators. Early in the morning the crackle of automatic weapons' fire was heard in Ramallah and al-Bireh as Israeli troops moved to try and crush the mounting demonstrations. As young Palestinian demonstrators faced the Israeli onslaught with stones and barricades of burning tires, the Zionist soldiers shot to kill. A 17-year-old Palestinian, Ibrahim Ali Darwish became the first martyr of the uprising when he was shot point blank in the chest. Two other girls were seriously wounded in the shooting attack. From Rafah in the Gaza to Nablus in the West Bank, demonstrations erupted in all the major towns. In Hebron, Zionist settlers from Kiryat Arba'a joined Israeli soldiers in attacking Palestinian young people. As in the past, settlers now began to initiate random acts of terror and murders as an adjunct to the official Zionist murders.

For the next three days, the character of the uprising was one of courageous confrontations by

Palestinian youths bearing only stones in self-defence against a systematic policy of Zionist troops firing freely at demonstrators. The daily news reports added the isolated details of a mounting casualty list. On March 21, more Palestinians were wounded by gunfire in Nablus itself. Shots were heard in Ramallah and al-Bireh. On March 22, a 17-year-old Palestinian worker was killed by Israeli troops in Deir Ammar camp near Nablus. Israeli troops tried to seize the body of the boy from his family to prevent people from gathering at the burial. In Hebron, 5 people were wounded and Israeli troops prevented ambulances from transporting them to the hospital. One ambulance was fired upon while attempting to reach wounded school children and a doctor was wounded. Two people were wounded in Jalazoun camp near Ramallah and four people had been wounded by gunshot the day before. On March 23, gunfire was again reported in Nablus, Jalazoun camp near Ramallah and throughout the Gaza Strip. The general strike was extended indefinitely.

### Settler Terror

Increasingly terrorist attacks by settlers took on a life of their own. Settlers began to form into patrolling units which simulated the right-wing death squads in



*Zionist colonial settlers dressed to kill*

Latin America. On March 21, a 20-year-old Palestinian was gunned down by settlers from Kiryat Arba'a when a carload of assassins entered Halhoul and perpetrated a deliberate murder. Also on March 23, settlers from Kiryat Arba'a entered the village of Bani Na'im near Hebron and joined Israeli troops in attacking Palestinian demonstrators. The next day settlers returned to Bani Na'im in a jeep and shot 17-year-old Farhan Ali Issa Khaddor pointblank in the chest. He was dead when he arrived at the hospital in Hebron. The response of the Zionist



authorities was to increase the troop presence throughout the Hebron region. On March 27, settlers again entered Halhoul and shot a 17-year-old in the stomach.

As in Latin America, the term "disappeared" now entered the lexicon of Zionist crimes against the Palestinian people. *Agence France Presse* reported on March 24 that the day before, Palestinians in Ramallah charged that settlers had kidnapped three youths from the town. Israelis dressed in civilian clothing stopped a private jeep near the Ramallah Hospital, beat up the driver and then fired their automatic weapons at two Palestinian passersby. One was wounded while the other ran. The three occupants of the jeep were forced into the settlers' car at gunpoint and disappeared. Another kidnapped youth from Ramallah was found dead four days earlier with a bullet through his head as it he had been executed.

Zionist settlers in the West Bank are not civilians. Virtually all of them are reservists in the Israeli army. All are heavily armed. There is no doubt that the settler terror squads are an adjunct to the overt Israeli military policy in the occupied territories. At the latest reporting, another Palestinian youth, Fathi Muhammad Zeidan, from the village of Beitin near Ramallah was kidnapped by settlers on March 30 and has disappeared.

#### Children Murdered

While settlers formed death squads, Israeli troops began to murder children. As mass demonstrations continued on March 24, school children in Khan Younis and Rafah in the Gaza joined in sit-ins, strikes and demonstrations in the streets. Israeli troops attacked in force in Khan Younis where a total strike was observed. Small children were the targets of the Israeli gunners. A 13-year-old boy was shot in the head and died the next morning in a Gaza hospital. Three small girls ages 12 and 13 were also shot and wounded. At least five more children were injured when they were beaten by troops who fired tear gas canisters at the crowds. In Rafah, where a curfew had been imposed, a 19-year-old boy lost an eye when he was shot by Israeli troops. The night before 30 secondary school girls were arrested in the village of Abasan. In Jerusalem, police began forcibly entering Palestinian homes and randomly arresting teenagers. On March 24, the *Jerusalem Post* carried a front page picture of Zionist troops arresting a 10-year-old Palestinian boy.

Children were again the target on the Day of the Land on March 30. In Jerusalem, Israeli troops opened fire on Palestinian children between the ages of 7 and 12. In the ensuing chase 5 of them were



No to "civil" administration, No to annexation

#### THE ISRAELI "CULT OF BRUTALITY"

"The government has given a free hand to Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, but it is time to hold him: The ideology of the Greater Israel is outweighed in the face of the degradation of the moral values and the cult of brutality, which is spreading amongst us as a consequence of the policy of repression pursued in the occupied territories."

the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*,  
March, 23, 1982)

dragged from their mothers and imprisoned. The worst incident of the day occurred in the village of Ya'bad near Jenin. Israeli troops opened fire on a small demonstration in the village and killed two Palestinian boys between the ages of 13 and 15. A third child was treated at the Afoula Hospital in Jenin and was in a critical condition. The increasing number of child deaths was becoming embarrassing for the Zionist authorities. Israeli troops surrounded the Afoula Hospital trying to prevent any news of the casualties from reaching the outside. Reporters were kept away. On the same day in Sa'ir near Hebron, Israeli troops departed from their usual practice of attacking youngsters and arrested 13 senior citizens whose ages range between 75 and 80.

As of March 31, eight Palestinians had died from gunshot wounds. Most of them were children. Some fifty more had received serious wounds from gunshots. The bullets have not deterred the will of the Palestinians in the occupied territories to continue the general strike and their resistance to the occupation.

#### Shak'a and Khalaf Dismissed

On March 25, Sharon and the head of the West Bank "civil administration" escalated their war to try and crush the popular Palestinian allegiance to the PLO. The two most well-known and popular mayors in the West Bank were ousted from office, Bassam Shak'a of Nablus and Karim Khalaf of Ramallah. Their ousting followed the removal of Ibrahim al-Tawil of al-Bireh. In 1980, the Begin government tried to physically liquidate all three of them. Shak'a and Khalaf lost limbs in car bomb attacks. Al-Tawil was lucky to escape injury from a bomb placed in his car. Now Menachem Milson thought their mandate from the people could be liquidated by replacing them with stooges of the "civil administration."

At dawn on the 25th, the two mayors were shoved into Israeli military vehicles. Shak'a was told he was being taken to see General Kadri Ori, the Zionist military commander of the Nablus area. At first Shak'a thought he was being deported. Two other nationalist mayors, Fahd Qawasmeh of Hebron and Muhammad Milhem of Halhoul, had been deported in 1980 just prior to the time when Shak'a lost both his legs in the car bomb attack. Ori presented Shak'a with a dismissal notice which he refused to sign. The decision to dismiss the two mayors had been taken at a special meeting of the Begin cabinet on March 23. Shak'a and Khalaf were accused of refusing to cooperate with Milson's "civil administration" and of being the two representatives of the PLO in the West Bank who has instigated the continuing demonstrations.

That Shak'a and Khalaf could by themselves manipulate the massive popular allegiance to the PLO was immediately shown to be a ludicrous sham. The patriotic sentiments of the Palestinians stem from their historical experience of expropriation and resistance to Zionist repression and cannot be manipulated by any leader. When the news of the dismissal of the mayors reached the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza, they took to the streets in their thousands in the daily demonstrations which are still continuing.

Since this argument failed to evoke international sympathy, Menachem Milson hurriedly convened a press conference and propounded a preposterous revision of the history of the 1976 West Bank municipal elections which swept the nationalist mayors into office. Milson alleged that now, 6 years later, the elections had been discovered to be fraudulent. He stated that the overwhelming victory of the nationalist mayors was due to supposed PLO intimidation at the time and therefore his "civil" administration was justified in ousting the mayors and appointing stooges in their stead. Milson's new theory of democracy was as little appealing as the theory that Shak'a and Khalaf were manipulating the

#### MESSAGE BY CHAIRMAN ARAFAT

In a message to the Palestinians in the occupied territories, broadcast by the *Voice of Palestine* on March 27, Chairman Arafat affirmed that the Zionists and their imperialist masters will never be able to erase the Palestinian identity, and that the Palestinian Revolution will confront the criminal execution of Zionist-imperialist conspiracies against the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. He also said that the Israeli actions had left the region primed for a major explosion. Following are excerpts from the message:

"The whole world is watching your action with awe and respect. The world's admiration increased as your unbending revolutionary determination continues to progress towards the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem.

"Your great steadfastness has proven to the enemy and the entire world that your will to regain your rights cannot be vanquished.

"The Zionists and their imperialist masters may think that by repression and official systematic terrorism they can erase the Palestinian reality and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. However, they recognize now, more than ever before that the Palestinian Revolution in its responsible position towards its people, the Arab nation and its just cause will not stand by before this criminal execution of Zionist-imperialist schemes and conspiracies against our people inside the occupied territories. Let the whole world know, that the entire situation in all the region is liable to explode in the face of this terrorist occupation, its repression, fascist methods and Nazi crimes.

"Particularly those states should know this which stand behind this organised Zionist terror, while keeping silent about and ignoring its criminal aims against our people, nation, just national rights, and peace in the region and the world."

Palestinian masses to engage in the general uprising against the occupation.

The Zionist authorities seized all the Palestinian newspapers to prevent their distribution in the West Bank and Gaza. But the Jerusalem daily *al-Fajr* managed to go to press on March 26 and refuted Milson's allegations that the 1976 municipal elections had not been democratic because of PLO pressure. *Al-Fajr* pointed out that this claim was in direct contradiction to countless previous statements by





Bassam Shak'a: total rejection of all forms of occupation.

Israeli officials to the effect that the 1976 elections were the only free elections ever to take place in the occupied territories. The *al-Fajr* editorial concluded that the people under occupation had chosen their path and their representatives, and nothing could make them deviate from this path or accept

alternative representative until their aspirations for freedom, self-determination and an independent state had been realized.

Milson and the Zionist military apparatus in the West Bank followed up on the ousting of the three mayors by placing them under house arrest. On March 27, al-Tawil's house in al-Bireh was surrounded by Israeli troops and journalists were prevented from meeting with him. Al-Tawil's house arrest order included even his wife and his two 5 and 6 year old children. Khalaf was banned from Ramallah entirely and kept under house arrest in Jericho. Troops also surrounded Bassam Shak'a's house and cut his telephone to keep him from talking to reporters.

Milson's scheme failed. The dismissal of the mayors only served to reinvigorate the popular will to continue the uprising and the resistance to the occupation. More Palestinians were out in the streets of Gaza and the West Bank in the coming days to face the bullets of the Zionist troops. Now all forces were building for a mass outpouring on the Day of the Land on March 31st.

#### PALESTINIANS CELEBRATE LAND DAY

On March 30, 1976, six Palestinians were shot and killed by Israeli troops in the Galilee during mass demonstrations to protect land confiscations. Ever

#### COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE P.L.O. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE GENERAL SECRETARIES OF ALL ORGANISATIONS

The PLO Executive Committee and the General Secretaries of all the groups of the Palestinian Revolution on March 25, 1982, issued the following communique concerning the situation in the occupied territories:

"Our great people all over the occupied homeland, in all their sectors and forces, continue to confront the Zionist enemy's repressive measures, and are observing an open general strike in defence of their national cause and their future, relentlessly, without hesitation and heedless of the sacrifices.

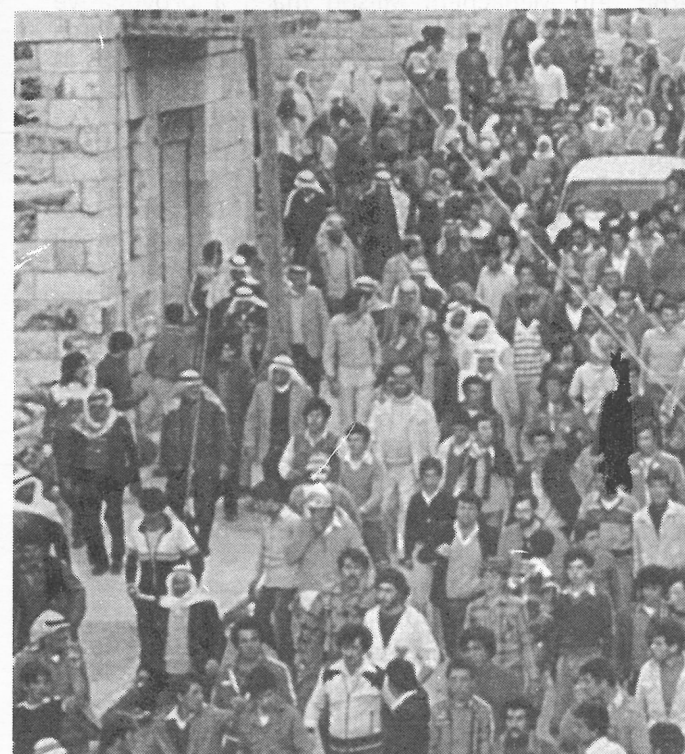
"The Zionist enemy is today attempting to complete its plan to strike at national institutions and impose the civil administration scheme, in preparation for the implementation of the self-rule conspiracy and in order to perpetuate the occupation.

"The removal by the enemy of Mayors Bassam Shaka'a of Nablus and Karim Khalaf of Ramallah from their posts represents the height of fascist racist

repression. The enemy is under the illusion that it can thus break the united will of our people and their rallying around their leadership and national institutions which continue their course, backed with the resolve and confidence of the people and in commitment to the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, and the goals of national struggle.

"Bassam Shaka'a, Karim Khalaf, Ibrahim Tawil and all mayors, institutions and bodies in the occupied homeland reflect the determination of the people as a whole through their unified stand which rejects the civil administration scheme and the dismissal orders. These measures, which the enemy had recourse to, will not save the scheme or restore the prestige of the Begin government which was dragged through the streets of the West Bank, Gaza and Galilee and which reached a political dead end.

"The fierce battle in the occupied territories is entering a decisive phase. Our people as a whole are aware that their victory in this battle will foil the Israeli plan declared by the enemy leaders. This plan aims to liquidate all national institutions and to deal a blow to popular unanimity around them, as a step towards imposing the will of the occupation and denying the inalienable national rights of our people,



Land Day demonstrations erupted throughout occupied Palestine

since, this day has been marked by all Palestinians as a national day of resistance to the Zionist occupation

in all parts of Palestine. This year the day took on a special significance because of the continuing uprising in the West Bank and Gaza as well as the two-month old general strike in the Golan to protest the Zionist annexation. On March 30th, the uprising extended to the 1948 occupied territories.

The Galilee witnessed one of the largest demonstrations ever for Land Day. The largest Palestinian town in the Galilee, Nazareth, was totally paralyzed at noon when the 45,000 Palestinian inhabitants responded unanimously to a call for a general strike. In an unprecedented display of national solidarity, Palestinians in Ramleh, Jaffa and Haifa also staged a general strike. This was the first time that such a manifestation had occurred on such a scale in these towns where Palestinians are now a minority of the population.

Palestinians in the Galilee joined in the same forces of resistance which had engulfed the West Bank and Gaza for the previous two weeks. Palestinian flags were raised in most Palestinian towns and villages in the 1948 occupied territories. As in the West Bank and Gaza, the roads of the Galilee were filled with stone barricades and burning tires. Hundreds of people demonstrated in the village of Kaffr Qasim, the site of the infamous Zionist massacre in 1956. Israeli troops arrested 10 people. Six major rallies were planned throughout the Galilee. The Israeli Communist Party (Rakah) organized the largest rally

including their right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital.

"The defeat of the enemy in this battle will bring nearer the day of decisive victory.

"Therefore our people with all their forces are now waging the ongoing battle, observing an open general strike and boycotting the enemy institutions. They are also escalating the struggle in all its forms, confident that they can remain steadfast in this confrontation, however long it takes and however great the sacrifices.

"The blood of the martyrs and casualties who fell in the streets and squares of the occupied land are a glorious expression of the people's heroism, in their courageous confrontation of the racist invaders' tanks and armies".

"The whole world is following the uprising, which has exposed the fascism and racism of the Zionist enemy and its American protectors, and which has proved that the defenceless masses, united under the banner of the PLO and its national goals, are stronger than U.S. — Zionist complicity, and that repression

and terror will increase the masses' determination to pursue their uprising and their defiance of the Zionists' decisions and their farcical projects.

"As our people wage the battle for their national destiny, the PLO considers that the measure of loyalty to the cause of Palestine, the central cause of the Arab nation, is now being defined in accordance with the responsibilities shouldered by all Arab forces, governments, parties and popular organisations, in solidarity with the struggle inside the occupied homeland.

"We call for the broadest popular and official action in the Arab homeland and internationally, to support the struggle of our people in occupied Palestine and the Golan, to condemn the U.S. imperialist complicity with the Zionist occupation, and to urge all governments and states in the world to take clear stands in denunciation of fascist Zionist repression and in order to take measures that would help put an end to it and foil its objectives.

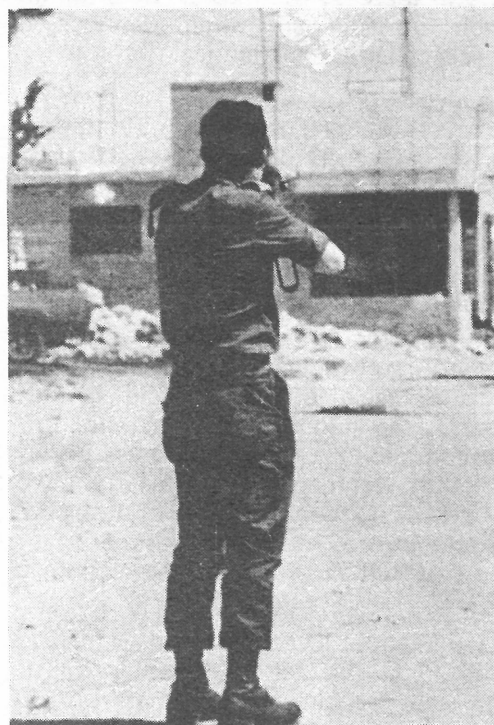
"In shouldering its responsibilities by taking action on the circumstances levels in these critical circumstances, the PLO has taken several resolutions to ensure wide-scale backing for the mass uprising and the open strike and to realize the broadest possible Arab and international support for this struggle."



in Nazareth. Second to Nazareth, one of the largest rallies was held in the village of Taibeh. The rally was organized by Abna al-Balad (Sons of the Village) and demonstrators convened on the village from several marching points. In Sakhnin, hundreds of Palestinians marched to the graves of the martyrs who fell in 1976 and laid wreaths during another mass rally.

Israeli troops fanned out throughout the Galilee to try and suppress the demonstrations. There were militant confrontations in most towns and numerous arrests. In the aftermath of the Land Day demonstrations in Galilee, the Begin government set up a special police unit to arrest Palestinians who participated in the day's events. As *Palestine* goes to press, over 30 Palestinians in the Galilee have been rounded up in the days following Land Day.

Land Day was one of the most brutal 24 hours in the West Bank since the beginning of the uprising. Israeli troops stormed a demonstration in Ya'bad near Jenin and shot dead three Palestinian teenagers. The general strike was total in the West Bank and Gaza. Large demonstrations were staged in the Palestinian camps. Roads were blocked by burning tires. In the morning, over 300 Israeli soldiers backed by 20 military vehicles confronted a peaceful demonstration organized by the staffs of the Jerusalem daily newspapers *al-Shaab* and *al-Fajr*. The troops burst into the offices of *al-Fajr* and arrested all 18 Palestinian journalists present. Zionist War Minister



Israeli troops shoot to kill.

Sharon and Menachem Milson made a provocative tour of Ramallah and Nablus backed by a large contingent of Israeli troops who forced open shops as they went along.

*Agence France Presse* reported what the day was like in the largest town in the West Bank, Nablus. Nablus observed a total general strike. The agency's correspondent described Nablus as a ghost town with tension pervading in all areas in the town. Israeli troops patrolled the main square with machine guns poised. Palestinian women staged a sit-in demonstration at the town's mosque. One of the women stated to the correspondent that Bassam Shak'a would remain the elected mayor of Nablus. She said that the town's people were facing daily confrontations with Israeli troops. Everyone was subject to imprisonment, unprovoked beatings and other aggressive measures. But the women's strike was proof that the people's determination had not been quelled by the repression.

As the uprising continues, the three dismissed mayors sent an urgent appeal on Land Day to the UN Security Council in the name of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. They declared that the whole Palestinian population rejects the Israeli occupation and all its measures, including the autonomy scheme. They affirmed in the strongest terms that while the Palestinians are now facing a vicious, barbaric attack aimed at their annihilation, this people has the right to continue to struggle against this attack for the sake of their right of self-determination and the establishment of an independent state under the leadership of the PLO.



## Sharon's Plan Blocked:

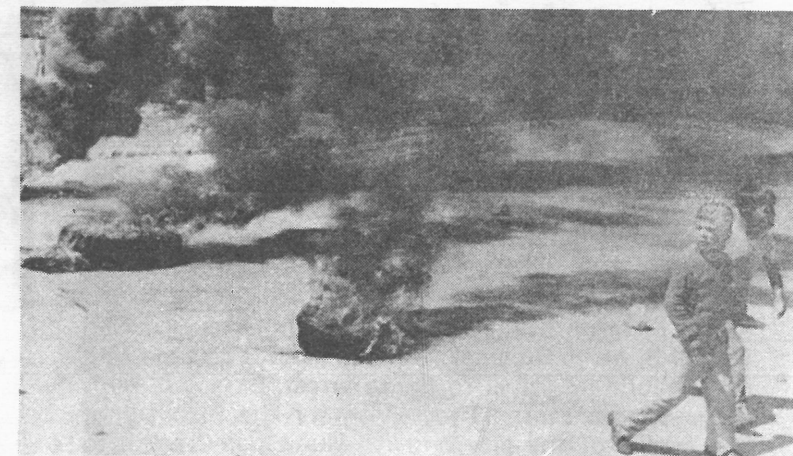
# THE FAILURE OF CAMP DAVID



Sharon directs the Israeli repression.

The Zionist policies towards Palestine have been that of expelling the native population, usurping their lands and establishing colonial settlements for Jewish newcomers. Organised Zionist terror has been the means to deprive the Palestinians of their natural rights, as well as suppressing their wishes and national aspirations. With this in mind, the Zionists under the auspices of the United States, together with the traitor Sadat of Egypt forged the infamous Camp David agreements on March 26, 1978.

The self-rule scheme engineered by the three partners at Camp David grants the Palestinians the right to live as refugees in their own lands. It deprives them their right to self-determination, freedom and national independence. It gives the Israelis the right



Burning tires: symbol of defiance in Ramallah

to maintain their occupation of the land and control over natural resources. Moreover, there is no hint that the Zionists' colonial settlements in the occupied territories would be dismantled.

The Israeli authorities with U.S. complicity had escalated their oppressive measures in order to confront the mounting resistance of the Palestinian people to Israeli occupation. The aim of these measures was to break their rallying around the national figures and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. At the same time Israel has tried to brighten and liberalize the ugly face of the occupation through what has been termed the "civil administration" — in short, Israeli generals in civilian uniforms. Meanwhile, Israel pursued its new-old policy known as the "village Leagues" to find some collaborators as an alternative to national figures and mayors in the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip.

This policy was illustrated with various clamp down campaigns directed against national and educational institutions in an attempt to intimidate the population and force them to surrender or leave. Regardless of "the brutality which is propagated among the Israelis with their policy of repression in the occupied territories" (1), these measures proved to be a complete fiasco versus the mounting Palestinian uprising.

## Sharon Back in Action

Sharon first tried his "iron fist" policy of systematic terror against the national leaders and bodies in the occupied territories. Then he tried his "civilised" policy in an attempt to deceive the elected Palestinian municipal councils, unions and national bodies who declared their opposition to the Camp David agreement as well as to the "civil administration". Both policies failed. Again he rushed to the scene to eliminate the persistent Palestinian resistance. Together with his reserve-general Milson, whom he appointed as the head of the "civil" administration, he tried to deal a blow to the national leaders in the occupied territories.



## THE FAILURE OF CAMP DAVID

On March 18, the occupation authorities dissolved the al-Bireh Municipal Council and confined the Mayor Ibrahim Tawil to house arrest. Explaining this move Sharon said: "The reason for the inability of the mayor of the city and its Municipal Council to function is rooted in the fact that they preferred political consideration to the wellbeing of their city and its inhabitants since they cut off all contacts with the 'civil' administration".(2)

A week later, Sharon ousted the mayors of Ramallah and Nablus: Karim Khalaf and Bassam Shak'a, both of whom were crippled two years ago by car bombs planted by Zionist thugs. The pretext this time was "general agitation, non-recognition of the civil administration and repeated attempts to disrupt public order".(3) What Sharon meant was clear non-collaboration with the Israeli authorities.

These measures followed a systematic terror and repression campaign against educational institutions. The first target was the Bir Zeit University, the biggest academic institutions in the occupied territories. The pretext for its closure on February 16 was the refusal of the University's authorities to abide by the regulations stipulated by the "civil administration." General Milson who paid a provocative visit to the University justified this move as "helpful to establish freedom of academic activity".(4)

In an attempt to blackout the news of the mounting uprising of the Palestinian people, the Zionist authorities on March 20 confiscated the three main papers published in the occupied territories. Israeli military sources claimed that *Al-Fajr*, *Al-Sha'ab* and *al-Quds* editions were siezed because they breached strict military censorship regulations. Their editors denied the charges. Later the Israelis said that the papers contained "inflammatory" material.(5)

On March 15, the Zionist authorities banned the Committee for National Guidance. This committee comprise mayors, national figures, intellectuals and heads of trade unions and syndicates. This move came in accordance with Sharon's declared policy to outflank PLO supporters.

### The 'Village Leagues': The Trojan Horse

The "iron fist" policy as well as the "silk glove" one engineered by Sharon coupled to achieve the same objective: replacement of national leaders with



"Village Leagues": Hebron Mafia

stooges and collaborators. Sheer violence with "liberal and democratic occupation" to attain this goal. In the process Israel has accused the mayors who were elected in 1976 of using "all sorts of repression and intimidation".(6)

In this context Milson has kept to his programme through exploiting the levers of patronage, the granting of funds and favours, to paralyse the municipalities and to nurture the network of "village leagues"(7). Moreover the Zionists have been funneling money and arms to these "village leagues." Just recently they were promised another \$25 million for their development projects.(88) These cliques have never been taken seriously. They are no more than "informers, petty criminals, illiterates and collaborators".(9) Even some Israeli circles have realized the debacle and the failure of those leagues. They consider that Israel has chosen real bandits.(10).

## Israel-U.S. Complicity: The Aim is to Annex the Occupied Territories

So far the Zionists have never missed the chance to use all means of subjugation and intimidation against the mounting resistance of the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Some scores of people have been killed or injured. Thousands have been confined to prison.

### RECORD IN U.S. "AID" TO ISRAEL

Words....

"We are deeply preoccupied with the tragic degradation of the situation in the occupied territories, and we regret that our earlier appeals for calm and prudence have been without effect."

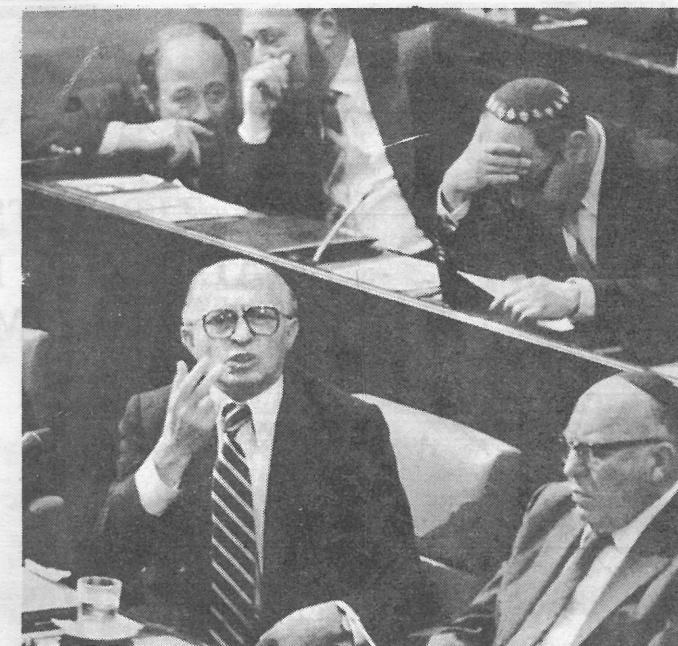
(U.S. State Department Spokesperson  
Dean Fisher, March 25, 1982)

Despite these atrocious measures, the Zionist authorities are aware that they would not work. Despite the U.S.-Israeli "strategic alliance" as well as the Camp David treaty and the protracted "autonomy talks" with the Egyptian regime, the Zionist policy of outflanking pro-PLO leadership and fostering a more malleable alternative is facing a critical challenge.(11) This policy and the talk about the need to resume negotiations on Palestinian autonomy while young boys are wounded and killed by Israeli soldiers, as if there is no other way to control stone-throwing crowds, is sheer self-delusion.(12)

Since the outstart, the Zionist authorities made no secret about their expansionist ambitions. By April 25, the alleged withdrawal of Israeli troops from Sinai, "there is a possibility that Israel would extend its legislation to the occupied territories".(13) Even Zionist papers considered long ago that Sharon's "liberalism" tends to pave gradual annexation of the occupied West Bank and Gaza.(14)

The U.S. administration for its part had nothing to do but to declare its "deep concern and regret for the loss of life". At the same time reemphasizing "the need to move ahead under the Camp David process and deal with the Palestinian autonomy issue "which so far has produced nothing but more oppression towards the Palestinian people.

Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister threatened that "if the autonomy talks become hopelessly stalled, Israel may annex the territory." of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



Begin: all options failed.

Deeds...

"Washington (UPI). The administration Tuesday asked Congress to approve a record \$2,485,000,000 aid programme for Israel. It is the largest single bilateral U.S. aid program in the world."

(International Herald Tribune,  
March 24, 1982)

Once again, the Israeli attempts to create new facts in the occupied territories have failed. The Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation have proved the rallying of all Palestinian communities inside and outside the occupied homeland, around their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. Moreover, they have proved to the Israeli that they cannot impose their schemes.

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## ZIONISTS DISBAND AL-BIREH, NABLUS AND RAMALLAH MUNICIPALITIES



Israeli troops move to impose Zionist "democracy"

Only one week after the illegal closure of al-Bireh Municipal Council and the dismissal of Mayor Ibrahim Tawil (see *Palestine Information Bulletin* Vol. 8 no. 6), the Zionists continued their assault on the democratically elected municipalities of the West Bank. On March 25, the Israeli military occupation authorities ordered the dismissal of Mayors Bassam Shaka'a of Nablus and Karim Khalaf of Ramallah.

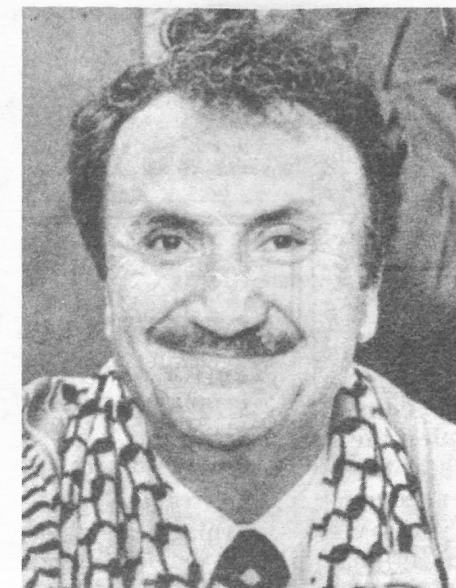
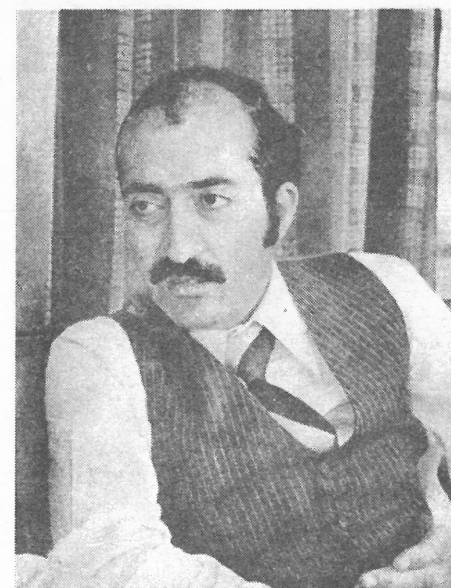
### Shaka'a's Answer: "Total Rejection"

Early in the morning of the 25th, Israeli tanks took up position around Nablus, armoured cars and soldiers patrolled the streets and at 6.00 a.m. Israeli troops smashed open the door of Bassam Shaka'a's home, while he was still in bed. The stormtroopers

hurled insults at Shaka'a's family and when he tried to use the telephone, he found that the "civil" administration had cut the lines.

Shaka'a was brutally bundled into a military vehicle and taken to the military governor, where he was told that he was to be removed from his post as Mayor of Nablus, claiming that he was the instigator of the mass protest which has erupted throughout the occupied territories since March 5.

Later, Shaka'a made a statement describing his "meeting" with the occupation authorities: "I declared my rejection of such an order and its 'justification' both in form and content, and said that what they call demonstrations are a legal right to defend our responsibilities. The violations are being



The deposed mayors: l to r — Ibrahim Tawil, Bassam Shaka'a and Karim Khalaf.

committed by the occupation authorities who are engaged in the transformation of our country, taking control of its resources and who, up to this date, have expelled over 17,000 inhabitants outside their land.

"I told him (Ouri Orr, Israeli Commander of Central Region) we had carried out elections to put an end to the conspiracy, that of the 'self-rule' scheme and the 'civil' administration, and that was clear in our electoral programme.

"As such, I rejected their order and their decisions and I refused to sign this order. I refused even to receive it."

He further pledged to carry on as the legally elected Mayor of Nablus. When he and the members of the Municipal Council attempted to enter the municipal offices, they were prevented from doing so by Israeli troops.

### Khalaf: No to Israeli Rule

Meanwhile, the Municipality of Ramallah held an emergency meeting to decide on further action to take. A communique was issued following the meeting which affirmed that Karim Khalaf will remain Mayor of Ramallah as he was legitimately elected by the people of Ramallah. Full support was expressed for the stands adopted by Khalaf, and for which he was removed, notably his firm rejection of the "civil" administration. Such a stand it was added, represents the will of all the people of Ramallah and its Municipal Council. The communique then confirmed the following points:

First, all resolutions issued since 1976 are legal and express the will of the people and their aspirations for the realisation of their legitimate rights, including those of return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state under PLO leadership.

Second, the Mayor and Council were elected on the basis of a sound electoral programme.

Third, Mayor Khalaf has upheld his full responsibilities and in a collective and democratic manner in implementing the Municipality's resolutions. As such, the Council rejects the Israeli order for the removal of Khalaf.

Fourth, the Council decided to reject all cooperation with the Israeli-appointed official.

The Municipality of Nazareth in Galilee on the same day issued a communique strongly denouncing Israeli military rule, and confirming that Tawil, Shaka'a and Khalaf are the legitimate mayors of their towns and the elected representatives of their people's causes, specifically the rejection of occupation, the "civil" administration and the "village leagues".

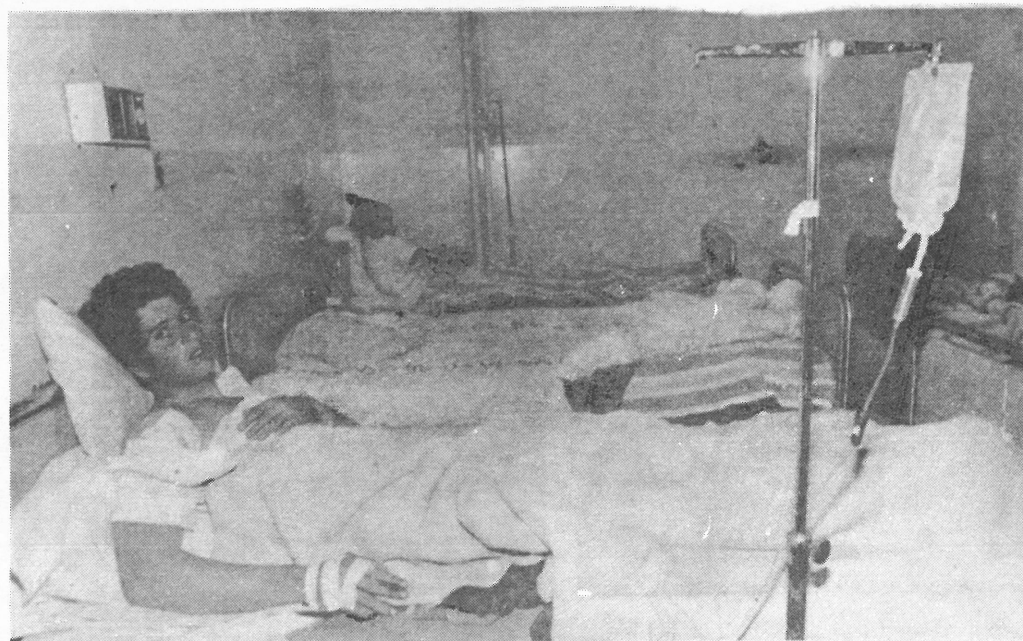
All three Mayors have been placed under house arrest. Karim Khalaf is being held in Jericho, 37 Km from Ramallah. Ibrahim Tawil is confined to his home and Israeli paratroopers have surrounded the house to prevent visitors from entering. Bassam Shaka'a learned of his house arrest when Israeli troops surrounded his home and barred him from leaving. Many of the municipal councillors have likewise been restricted to their homes and municipal employees have been taken by force to the municipal offices to work under the Israeli imposed authorities.

### Long History of Zionist Attacks

The dismissals of Ibrahim Tawil, Bassam Shaka'a, and Karim Khalaf and their respective Municipalities of al-Bireh, Nablus and Ramallah are not the first



The results of Israeli terror:  
many people hospitalized



time that the Palestinian Municipalities have been subjected to the fascist policies of Zionism.

Faced with the steadfast Palestinian rejection of the various Israeli "self rule" schemes for the occupied territories, the Zionists, on June 2, 1980, carried out separate bomb attacks on the three Mayors. Tawil was only slightly injured, but Khalaf lost his left foot and Shaka'a had to have both legs amputated. No one was ever brought to justice for these criminal acts, but it is clear that the terrorist Begin and his henchmen were behind them.

Only one month before these attacks, on May 2, 1980, Mayors Fahd Qawasmeh and Muhammed Milhem of Hebron (al-Khalil) and Halhoul along with Sheikh Tamimi of Hebron were blind-folded and

taken by helicopter to south Lebanon where they were expelled across the border.

Throughout 1980 and 1981, all the mayors and council members were subjected to house arrests and restriction of movement orders, preventing them from carrying out their duties effectively. The Israeli occupation attempted to sever the Palestinian masses from their PLO leadership and elected municipalities, and to impose "civil" administration and the stooge "village leagues".

With the abject failure of the latter, the Zionists, on March 1, 1982, outlawed the National Guidance Committee, which was established to coordinate opposition to the Camp David conspiracy and the "self rule" scheme. At the time, the mayors clearly

#### Municipalities Solid:

#### NO TO CIVIL ADMINISTRATION YES TO P.L.O.

The Mayors and members of eight Municipal Councils in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on March 28, declared their firm rejection of the so-called "civil" administration and of dealings with its institutions on bodies under any circumstances. The eight Municipal Councils expressed full support for the stands adopted by the Ramallah, al-Bireh and Nablus municipalities. They described the latest Israeli moves as attempts to annex the West Bank and Gaza. The communique, as issued by the municipalities of Anabta, Qalqilya, Beit Sahour, Gaza, Dora, Tulkarem, Hebron and Bethlehem, the others being unable to participate due to Israeli-imposed curfews or blockades, stated the following:

1 The Israeli oppressive measures against the West Bank and Gaza Strip institutions are a step towards the annexation of these territories via the Israeli-backed "village leagues".

2 We reject the civil administration, we refuse to deal with any of its bodies and we fully support the stands adopted by the municipalities of Ramallah, al-Bireh and Nablus.

3 We confirm our right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state under the leadership of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

4 We call on our brothers in the Arab world, public opinion and all peace-loving forces to stand by our side in the face of Israeli expansion and aggression against the aspirations of our people.



Ibrahim Darwish the first martyr of the uprising:  
shot in the heart

saw this repressive move as a preliminary step towards outlawing the municipalities.

Bassam Shaka'a, in a telephone interview with *Agence France Presse* on March 25, explicitly revealed the purpose behind the Zionist actions: "They dismiss us, they take our land from us every day. They do not want us. They want a 'purely Jewish state...'. They want to reduce us to silence and force us to accept their aims, to cut our ties with the Palestinians outside and with our leaders."

#### The Zionists Look to "Final Solution"

The disbanding of the democratically elected municipalities should not be seen in isolation from the Zionist general offensive against all Palestinian public and private bodies, in preparation for the Zionists' strategic goal — their "final solution" — the expulsion of all Palestinian Arabs from the occupied territories to clear the way for outright annexation.

Since 1967, when the Israelis invaded the West Bank and Gaza, Zionist colonialism has attempted to destroy the Palestinian economy and dominate the occupied territories with Israeli finance. They have tried to suppress Palestinian social institutions and replace them with Israeli ones. Furthermore, the Zionists have tried to erase the Palestinian national identity culturally and educationally.

The most recent moves by the Zionists, with these aims in mind, have been the vast land expropriations, the take-over of the East Jerusalem Electric Company and the closure of the Jordan bridges. In February 1982, Bir Zeit University was closed down for the second time in only four months, and at the beginning of March, the attacks on the Palestinian municipalities began with the detention of Ibrahim Tawil and the disbanding of al-Bireh Municipality.



These repressive measures, blatant economic and political terrorism, go hand in hand with the attempts to impose "civil" administration and the "self rule" conspiracy, to prepare the way for direct annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip — a long-term aim of Zionist expansionism.

#### The Palestinian People: Objective Barrier to Annexation

The Palestinian people continue to express their total rejection of the Israeli occupation and conspiracies, and to defend in word and action their Palestinian Arab identity. The people under occupation have chosen their path and their representative the PLO, and nothing can make them deviate from the path or accept some "alternative" leadership.

Their demands remain the same — freedom, self-determination and the creation of an independent state under the leadership of the PLO. The effects of the Israeli repression on the Palestinian people can best be summed up in the words of Karim Khalaf: "These latest measures will not sap the will of the Palestinian people to resist the occupation and such schemes as the "civil" administration and the "autonomy" plan. This resistance will go on as long as one Palestinian child remains alive in the occupied territories."



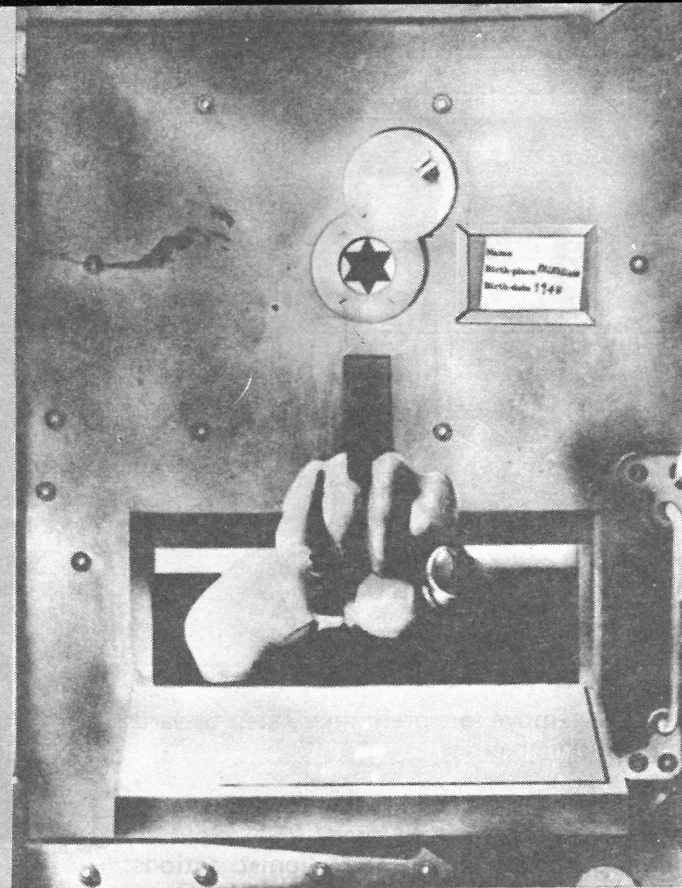
## ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

### ISRAELI MILITARY COMPLEX EXPANDING AS ECONOMIC CRISIS DEEPENS

In a dispatch of March 29, the GDR news agency *ADN* reported on the latest developments in the Israeli military build up and arms industry, which are linked to the worsening economic and social situation within the country. The news agency also comments, that Israel's overall aggressive policy towards the Palestinian and Arab people lies at the roots of these developments:

The Israeli armament industry is currently developing a new combat aircraft called Levi. From 1985, it is to be manufactured in serial production and to be supplied in great numbers to the air force. Development of the new bomber is part and parcel of Israel's stepped-up armament policy and of plans to modernize the air force and the other services on the basis of home production. The country's entire economy is highly militarized to serve its policy of aggression and war. An unproportionally great number of scientists and engineers are working for the armament industry. At present, armament expenditure swallows up one third of the budget. With 1,835 dollars per head of the population going to arms every year, Israel spends more on that purpose than any other country in the world.

Israel's foreign trade and payments balance deficit is first of all due to its constant purchases of large amounts of arms from the United States, as high arms expenditure is behind the steady worsening of the overall economic situation and the country's acute crisis. Last year the rate of inflation ran at more than 130 per cent and



prices went up by more than ten times. It is above all the working people who have to shoulder the burdens of the armament course which entails cuts in social services and subsidies and steady increases in direct and indirect taxes.

#### 40 NEW ISRAELI MILITARY OUTPOSTS IN THE WEST BANK

On the orders of war minister Sharon, the Israeli occupiers in early April began to establish 40 new bases in the illegally occupied Palestinian West Bank, Western agencies reported with reference to the Israeli radio. They could be a first step to found new Israeli settlements, the press reports said.

There are at present some 24,000 Zionist settlers in the West Bank. According to Israeli plans, their number is to increase considerably.

#### BETHLEHEM MILITARY COURT SENTENCES 20 YOUTHS

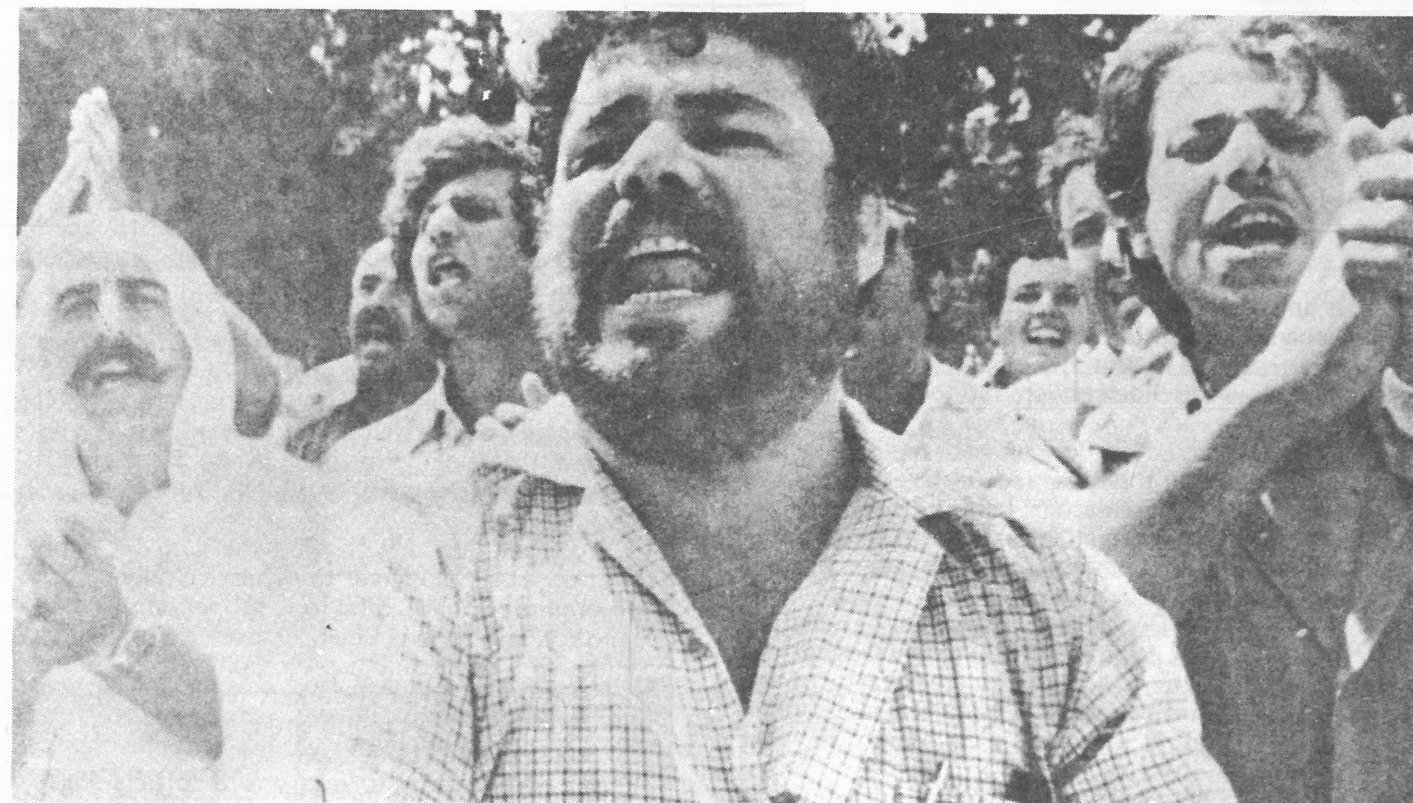
On March 19, the Israeli military court in Bethlehem sentenced and fined 20 Duheisha refugee camp inhabitants aged 12 to 18 years on charges of throwing stones at military vehicles. They were sentenced

to between one and three months in jail, and fined 6-15,000 Shekels.

#### RELEASE OF A PALESTINIAN PRISONER AFTER 7 YEARS WITHOUT TRIAL

In early March, the Israeli occupation authorities released a Palestinian, Ali Jamal, from the West Bank town of Jenin. Jamal had been imprisoned under "administrative detention" without any trial for seven years, the longest such term in Israeli "legal" history. As the British *Guardian* reported on March 8, 1982, Jamal was arrested in May 1975 in connection with the killing of an Israeli travelling through Jenin. He was allegedly suspected of running a cell for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Jamal's case had been "reviewed" every six months by a military tribunal, but he was never brought to trial nor was a charge brought up against him, because the Israeli authorities could not produce evidence. Following Jamal's release after seven years, the Israelis still continue to keep him under house arrest and he must report twice a day to the police. Forever, according to the "laws" of Israeli-style "democracy".



Israeli Repression on the Golan:

Mass demonstration in Golan: release all political prisoners

## THE STRIKE CONTINUES

The total general strike of 13,000 Syrian Arabs on the Golan Heights which has lasted since February 14, and the mass solidarity demonstrations in Galilee, on March 25 finally forced the Israeli occupation authorities to lift the army blockade around the four main villages of the Golan.

The strike began when four national leaders were arrested and detained in solitary confinement, in an attempt to decapitate the leadership of the mass movement against Israeli occupation. Mass protests on the Golan began immediately after the illegal annexation by Israel of the Syrian territory on December 14, 1981, and continued against the Zionist attempt to impose Israeli identity cards on the Golan population.

The Israeli occupation forces tried in vain many times to break the strike. Water and essential services were cut off and basic necessities such as baby foods and medicines were deliberately withheld. Mass arrests, including children, were carried out and heavy fines and

sentences imposed. Then, on February 25, the Israelis placed a travel ban on Golan citizens and sealed off the area with troops.

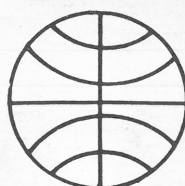
Faced with the solid rejection of the attempts to force the Syrian nationals of the Golan to carry Israeli IDs, the Israeli government announced its "final solution" for those who refuse the cards by April 1 — mass deportation.

The immediate and total response of the Golan people to this barbaric suggestion was to announce a hunger strike for April 1.

The lifting of the blockade however, has not altered the resolve of the Golan citizens to continue their strike. Their leaders remain in detention and the Israeli occupation goes on. The Zionist threats of dire consequences if the Golan population maintain their refusal to accept Israeli IDs still remain. Israeli radio has threatened that without Israeli IDs, the people of the Golan would be subjected to constant harassment by the Israeli "security" police and may administrative processes to constant harassment by the Israeli "security" police and many administrative processes would be rendered impossible to carry out.

The general strike of the people of the Golan has shown the way to confront Israeli repression, as has the popular uprising throughout the occupied territories. Mass resistance will continue until all the demands of the people are met.





## THE WORLD CONDEMNS ISRAEL'S REPRESSION

The uprising in the occupied territories against the Israeli occupation authorities' brutal repression of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has met with worldwide condemnation.

In Moscow, Soviet dailies praised the struggle of the heroic people in the occupied Arab territories and pointed out that the reasons behind the explosive situation are the Zionist attempts to annex the occupied territories.

In the German Democratic Republic, newspapers were unanimous in ascribing to the Israeli authorities designs of annexation. Kurt Roth, secretary of the Solidarity Committee of the G.D.R. said, when addressing a meeting in Dresden on March 26, that the "implementation of the Arab people of Palestine's rights to national self-determination, return to their homeland and the establishment of an independent state is the pivotal issue in the quest for peace and security in the Middle East." Mr. Roth stressed that the PLO would receive every support in its struggle against the Israeli policy of annexing occupied Arab Palestinian territories.

In Prague, the General Secretariat of the International Organization of Journalists on March 24, strongly condemned Israeli oppressive practices against the population in the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip, and in particular against newspapers and journalists.

On March 23, the Cypriot government in an official communique strongly condemned "the arbitrary acts of the Israeli occupying authorities against the municipal council and people of al-Bireh and of the West Bank". It expressed the government's and people's "sympathy with the victims of these illegal acts" and reaffirmed support for the Palestinians' inalienable rights.

In France, Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson met on March 26 with the Arab ambassadors to his country and reported to them the concern of the French government and its denunciation of the illegal Israeli measures in the occupied territories. However, one should not forget that it was the visit of French President François Mitterrand to Israel in early March, which has certainly encouraged increasing Israeli aggression and repression towards the Palestinian people and the Arab world. One can also not neglect France's efforts at the UN to block any sanctions to be taken against the aggressor Israel.

### U.S. HYPOCRISY AND CYNISM

Even the United States Government, faced with the naked brutality of its Israeli "strategic ally" and the worldwide alarm about it, felt it opportune to murmur some words of "concern": "We deeply regret the loss of life" (White House press secretary Larry M. Speakes, March 22, 1982); it is regrettable that the Israeli authorities have decided to remove the legally elected Palestinian mayors" (State Department spokesperson Dean Fisher, March 25).

However, on March 23, the U.S. administration asked Congress to approve a new record programme of \$2.5 billion in economic and military "aid for the Begin/Sharon government... This aid is first of all used to uphold the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian territories and to finance further aggression and expansion.

To add cynism to injury U.S. officials also repeatedly suggested more "progress" in the Camp David accords as an alleged "remedy" against the Israeli occupation terror. As if it was not precisely Camp David, combined with more U.S. weaponry, which has given the Israeli extremists all encouragement to continue and expand their aggression against the Palestinian people and the Arab world.

Meanwhile in the UN Security Council, the U.S. government does all to block and undermine any meaningful resolution condemning and sanctioning Israeli occupation terror.

In London, a spokesman for the British Foreign Office issued a statement deploring the Israeli dismissal of the elected mayors of Nablus, Ramallah and al-Bireh. But, on March 31, while Palestinian blood continued to flow in the streets of the occupied territories, British Foreign Minister Lord Carrington arrived in Israel for an official visit. Neglecting Arab calls for cancelling the visit, the British government thus provided diplomatic cover for the Israeli bloodbath.

The EEC Council which convened in late March for two days in Brussels issued a statement condemning Israeli measures in the occupied territories. It demanded that Israel must put an end to violence and repressive practices inside the West Bank Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. The council discussed the situation in the Middle East in general and expressed deep concern about what is going on in the West Bank, especially the ousting of the Arab mayors and the disbanding of their municipalities.

### UN SECURITY COUNCIL CONVENE S

On the demand of the Arab countries the UN Security Council convened on March 24 to discuss the situation in the occupied territories. On March 22, municipal and village councils in the occupied territories also addressed a message to the president of the UN Security Council, urging the latter's intervention to end the vicious racist offensive launched by the Israeli occupation authorities. At the opening session of the Security Council, Clovis Maksoud, the Arab League's representative, called on the United States to condemn the repressive Israeli actions in the occupied Arab lands and said that the UN Security Council must conclude a clear political resolution.

In the session of March 26, the Arab representatives expressed their belief that the increased danger in the Middle East is the direct result of the Camp David accords. The PLO representative to the United Nations, Zuhdi Tarazi, also called for an unanimous condemnation of Israel and complained that U.S. delegate Jeanne Kirkpatrick, currently president of the Security Council, had refused to meet with him to discuss the PLO and Arab proposals. The Soviet delegate, Oleg Troyanovsky, stated that the tragedy which is unfolding at present in the occupied territories, is the inevitable result of the deals concluded under the auspices of Camp David.

### U.S.S.R. POINTS TO U.S. PROTECTION FOR ISRAEL

On March 27, the official Soviet news agency TASS denounced the direct protection accorded by Washington to Israel in the "massive campaign of terror organised by the Zionist government against the Palestinian people." Reporting on the meeting of the UN Security Council in New York about the situation in the occupied territories, TASS said that the Zionist state is "before the eyes of the whole world committing massacres against peaceful demonstrators. The Soviet news agency also accused the U.S. delegation to the UN Security Council of "trying to exert behind the scenes pressure on the representatives of other states. TASS accused the American government of working "to prevent a resolution condemning Israel and calling for a halt to the repression as well as the annulment of the decisions concerning the disbanding of the legally, elected municipality councils of Arab towns."

### U.S. VETO IN SECURITY COUNCIL BACKS ISRAELI AGGRESSION

The United States on Friday, April 2, vetoed a Security Council resolution denouncing Israeli actions in the occupied territories and calling on Israel to rescind its dismissal of the mayors of three West Bank towns. The vote on the resolution was thirteen to one, with one abstention by Zaire. By exerting its veto the U.S. again asserted its blind and endless support and encouragement to Israel's arbitrary and oppressive measures against the heroic Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The U.S. veto of a comparatively "moderate" resolution was also yet another slap in the face for the Arab governments.

It was the 30th veto by the U.S. in the 37-year history of the United Nations. The veto on the resolution drafted by Jordan and supported by all Arab states followed a week-long debate in response to the recent wave of Israeli oppression in the West Bank and Gaza strip in which eight courageous Palestinians were killed.

The vetoed resolution denounced Israel's "violation of liberties and rights of the inhabitants of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza strip which followed the measures taken by Israel with regard to the Golan Heights..." The resolution also affirmed that all provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in time of war continued to apply to all the occupied territories. It called on Israel to cease all measures contravening that convention.

In the session of March 30, the Israeli delegate went so far as to claim that Israel was "building a framework for peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Jews", but that the PLO and Jordan were conspiring to destroy it.

The Arab representatives have drafted a resolution supported also by the Non-Aligned and the Socialist countries, that would censure Israel, demand that it reinstate the al-Bireh municipality council, call on Israel to halt its repression and treat the Palestinians in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Convention protecting people in occupied zones, and end the occupation of the West Bank.



## ARAB INDIGNATION

A wave of protests against the occupation swept through the Arab world. The Arab people denounced the arbitrary Israeli policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the massive support the policy of terror receives from the United States.

In Lebanon, the Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement called for a symbolic strike on March 25 in support of the uprising of the heroic Palestinian people in the occupied territories. This strike was observed completely throughout all the areas under the control of the patriotic Lebanese forces. Rallies took place in various towns.

The Syrian People's Assembly, on March 26, called on the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel. A massive popular demonstration was held in Damascus on the same day.

In Aden, a massive demonstration and a rally were held on the 25th of March, organised by the Yemeni Socialist Party.

In Baghdad, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party, Naim Haddad, praised the Palestinian uprising. The Iraqi National Assembly, in messages sent to various parliaments, stressed the need to back the Palestinian people's struggle.

In Tunis, the cabinet expressed its anxiety over the Israeli violations of all national and human rights.

The Kuwaiti Teachers' Society issued a communique calling on Arab and Islamic peoples to take a unified stand in confronting the Zionist measures and oppressive practices.

All Arab ambassadors to the Federal Republic of Germany issued a press release in Bonn on March 26 welcoming the struggle and uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. This uprising clearly expressed the fact that the Palestinian people cling to their land and to their right for national existence. It also underlines that the PLO is the only and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The events also show the aggressiveness of Israeli policy which is determined to trigger a new Middle East war threatening world peace. It finally exposes the failure of the Camp David agreements to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Arab news papers again called for the use of Arab oil and financial power to punish Western states which refuse to impose sanctions on Israel.

The Kuwaiti daily *al-Watan* asked Bassam Shak'a, the desposed Palestinian mayor of Nablus, to realise

that we "Arabs have become a world power preoccupied with developments in Salvador and Afghanistan, nuclear warheads in Europe, and the North-South dialogue; that while you with your amputated legs were confronting fire, we Arabs were discussing the future of oil and inspecting our bank accounts."

In Saudi Arabia newspapers complained bitterly about a West, "which fills the world with cries about human rights in Poland and says nothing about brutalities perpetrated by the Zionists in the occupied territories."

## SOLIDARITY ALL THE WORLD OVER WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

In Prague, a week of solidarity with the Palestinian people, a huge rally was held at the end of March to coincide with the "Day of the Land".

In Oslo, a huge demonstration was staged on March 24 denouncing Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people.

In Paris on the same day, a manifestation of protest against Israel's outrages in the occupied Arab lands was held in the centre of the capital of France. The manifestation was centered around the slogans "No to Israeli Aggression" and "Stop Repression in the Occupied Arab Lands." Taking part in the demonstration were representatives of the political organisations of the country, including the French Communist party, the United Socialist Party and leading trade union organizations.

Demonstrations and popular rallies were also held in southern France. They came in response to invitations issued by the municipal councils of Montpellier, Nimes and Sete. Trade unions, political parties, and other friendly forces send solidarity messages to Ibrahim al-Souss, the PLO representative in Paris. Messages came from the Franco-Arab Friendship Society, the Socialist Party, the Communist Party, the Unified Socialist Party and the General Confederation of Workers, manifesting their solidarity with the Palestinian people on the occasion of the "Land Day."

In the Federal Republic of Germany, the Union of the Palestinian Workers and Students held a demonstration in Frankfurt on March 28. Several solidarity meetings were also held in other West German cities. The German-Arab Society issued a press statement signed by representatives from the major political parties denouncing the occupation policy and the military rule of the Begin government directed against the Palestinian people, which demand only their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination. The statement also said that Begin's policy, obviously aiming at the annexation of the occupied Arab territories, "has become a great risk for world peace". This policy could not be carried out without "the agreement of the U.S. government." The statement called on the United States to secure the observation of human rights by its Israeli ally. It also called for an international conference to safeguard the peace in the Middle East. It finally called on the Norwegian Nobel Committee to take away the Nobel peace prize from Begin.

In Rome, the Palestinian-Italian Solidarity Committee and the Socialist Party issued communiques condemning Israeli terror.

The National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA) held a press conference in Washington on March 23, in which it condemned "Israel's brutal and wanton shooting and killing of unarmed Palestinian teenagers", and its disregard for "even the most basic human rights for the Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation for 15 years." The statement also held the United States responsible for the deeds of Israel.

## HUGE WASHINGTON MARCH EXPESSES SOLIDARITY

On March 27, support was expressed in Washington for the Palestinian people struggling against the occupation. More than 30,000 people joined in a massive demonstration in Washington D.C. to protest the Reagan policy in general and in particular kits intervention in El-Salvador and the arms build-up. The Palestine Congress of North America was one of the many organizations participating in this huge demonstration. Speeches were given condemning the U.S. support for Israeli oppression, particularly against innocent civilian students, women and children in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestine Congress of North America, on the occasion of a solidarity demonstration taking place in Washington, issued a statement saying: "The Palestinian people who refused to buckle under the weight of Israeli oppression are resolved to continue their struggle for freedom, independence and self-determination, until these goals are realized, under the leadership of the PLO. We call upon all freedom-loving and democratic forces throughout the world to assume their historical responsibility and to stand on the side of justice — the side of Palestine."

The General Federation of Construction Workers Unions in Cyprus, on March 22, condemned Israeli practices against Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories. This statement which came in the communique issued in Nicosia following the Federations' conference, confirmed Cypriot workers support for the Palestinian people's just cause and struggle under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The World Peace Council (WPC) in its statement issued on March 26 in Helsinki condemned "the ongoing escalation of Israeli terror against the population in the occupied Palestinian territories, the massive use of the armed forces against demonstrators, the killing of six persons, the dissolution of democratically elected municipal councils, the dismissal of their mayors and the arrest of hundreds of people." The WPC stated that Israeli actions are executed "in brazen contravention of international covenants on human rights as well as of resolutions of the UN on the Middle East and Palestine question. The World Peace Council views the escalation of terror in the occupied territories as part of the continuously increasing aggressivity and expansionism of Israel.

The Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa also issued a statement of support for the uprising. Solidarity activities were held and statements of support for the Palestinian uprising were issued in several capitals around the world, including Moscow, Hanoi, Berlin, Prague, Belgrade, Rome, Karachi and Islamabad.

The WPC urges all governments to take urgent action to compel Israel to respect human rights and its urges all people and mass organizations to demonstrate their firm solidarity with the people in the occupied Palestinian territories at this critical hour."



## ISRAEL VERSUS THE WORLD

### SOLIDARITY MESSAGES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution received many messages of solidarity in support of the uprising and Day of the Land in the occupied territories. Some of these messages were from;

- Todor Zhivkov, President of Bulgaria;
- Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega;
- King Khaled of Saudi Arabia;
- President Ali Nasser Muhammad of Democratic Yemen;
- The President of the World Peace Council;
- Chairman of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee;
- The African National Congress of South Africa;
- The National Association of Arab Americans;
- The Palestine Congress of North America;
- The Cypriot Communist Party;
- National liberation movements and parties in Democratic Yemen;
- General Secretariat of the Federation of Arab Youth in Yemen;
- The Secretary General of the permanent secretariat of the Arab People's conference, Omar al-Hamdi;
- Palestinian graduates of Soviet universities;
- Palestinian and Jordanian students studying in Iraq;
- Popular unions and syndicates in Jordan;
- The General Union of Palestinian Students in Tunis;
- GUPS and other Palestinian and Arab organizations in the GDR;
- The Fourth Conference of the General Union of Jordanian students (Basra branch);
- The Executive Committee of the Arab Students League in Pakistan.
- Representatives of the Arab Parliamentary Council;
- The Palestinian Pakistani Friendship Association;
- Ara popular organizations and unions in Morocco;
- The Executive Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman.
- The Popular Assembly of the Arab Masses in Tripoli Libya
- The Lebanese National Organization.
- GUPS branch in India.
- The Franco-Arab Solidarity Association.
- The Arab Women's League.
- The Lebanese Community in Freetown (Sierra Leone).
- Palestinian National Congress members and popular institutions in Kuwait.
- The executive office of the Independent Christian Union in Beirut.
- The Nasserite youth movement in Beirut.
- The General Secretariat of the Union of Jordanian Workers.
- The Greek Musician Mikis Theodorakis.
- Arab Jurists' Union in Cairo.
- 50 North and South American organization represented in Mexico.
- The municipality of the Scottish town of Dundee.
- Secretary General of the Ethiopian Solidarity and Peace Committee.
- The Secretary General of the Tunisian Communist Party

## Israeli Occupation Forces Brutalizing Palestinian Kids:

### "ALL THESE SOLDIERS FOR TAKING A CHILD?"

While rampaging with their truncheons and guns through the Palestinian towns and villages of the occupied territories, Israeli troopers and their "settler" auxiliaries have made it a sport to beat up and "arrest" Palestinian youths and even kids. The cynical calculation is that by brutalizing the children they can terrorize and intimidate entire families. Among the many press and TV reports which give evidence of this latest Zionist "strategy" was a report by Christopher Walker from the British *Times* who wrote the following (March 24, 1982):

#### 8 Year Old Boy Dragged into Police Wagon

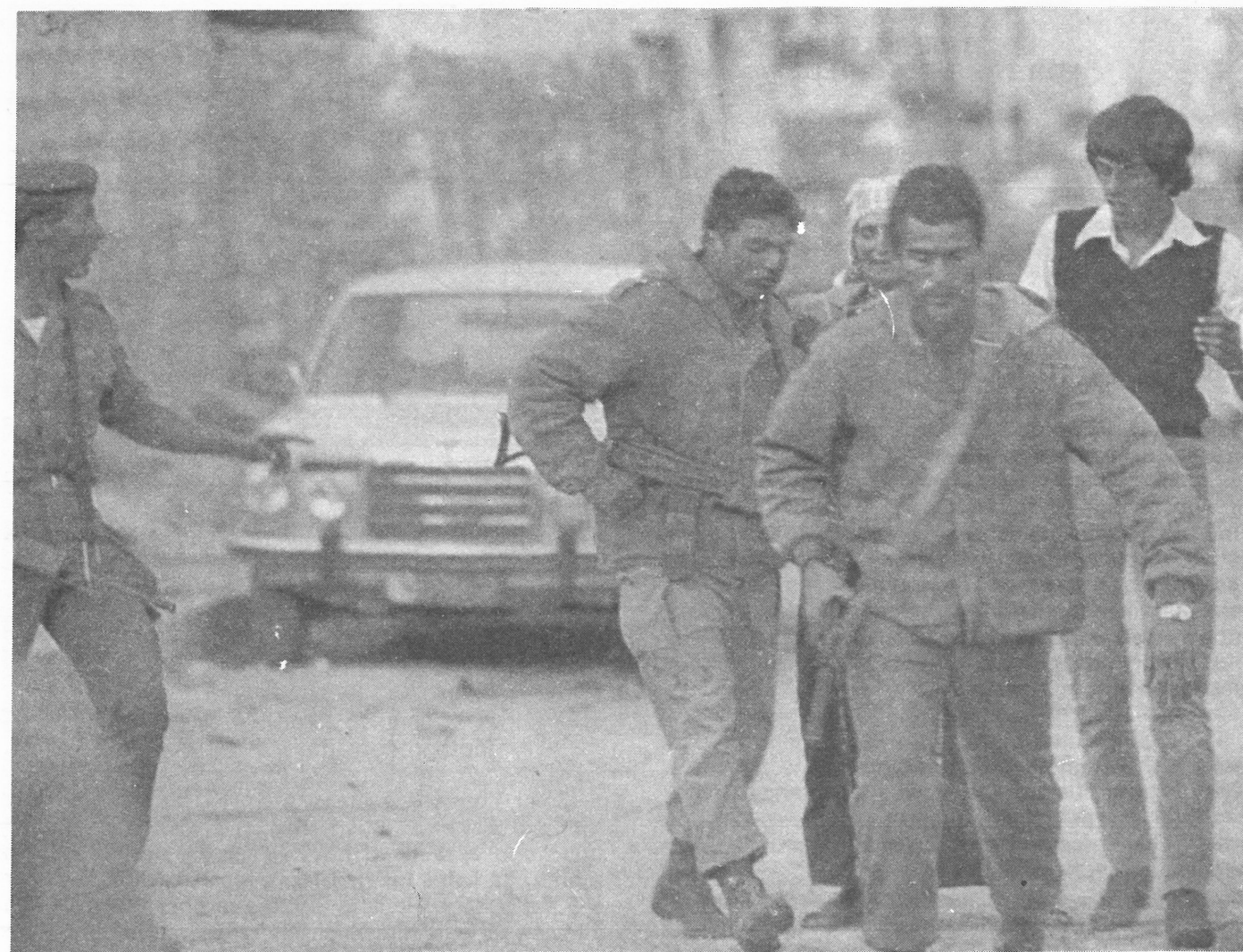
"I watched as 10 policemen wearing riot helmets and wielding long white batons arrested two Arab children suspected of involvement in one of the incidents. There were emotional scenes as Mrs. Jihan Kashur, the mother of one of the boys, who she claimed was only aged eight, tried to drag him from the back of a police wagon.

"As police drove the two hysterical boys away for questioning, Palestinian women began screaming abuse in Arabic and appealing for help from passers-by. One onlooker taunted the riot squad by shouting that they should take on men, not little boys."

#### 14 Year Old Fadel Deported at Night

Another comprehensive report on systematic arrests and mistreatment of Palestinian children at the hands of the Israeli occupation authorities was published in the *New York Times* already on February 27, 1982, from its Israel correspondent. Following are some examples:

Jalazoun Refugee Camp, Israeli-occupied West Bank. — The Israeli soldiers came about 8:30 p.m. to the concrete home of Isa Abd Rahman el-Kheldi, a Palestinian refugee. As he tells the story, the smallest of his 13 children were asleep, as was his wife. The oldest were sitting on the cold floor watching television. Mrs. Kheldi stirred, half awakened by sounds outside. She thought she was dreaming but was not sure. She asked her husband to check. As he approached the door, it burst open and seven soldiers crowded into the tiny room.



Israeli stormtroopers drag off Palestinian boy and his mother for interrogation and torture

'What is your name?' a soldier asked. He was told. 'That's right,' the soldier said in Arabic. This is the name we want. Where are your children?' 'Mr. Kheldi took them into the room with the television set. A soldier pointed to a boy sitting at the end of the line and asked his name. It was Fadel and he was 14 years old. 'Come with me,' the soldier said to the boy. 'Put some clothes on him,' the soldier commanded the parents. Then Fadel's hands were locked together in front of him with handcuffs and he was led away. 'Put them on my hands, not his!' shouted his mother, weeping.

"That is how Mr. Kheldi remembers the evening of January 12. In the more than four weeks that followed, he said he heard nothing from the Israeli military authorities who govern the West Bank about the condition of his son or the charges against him. A representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who was allowed to visit the boy a couple of weeks after his arrest, told the family recently that they would be able to see him soon. "Other children are also being arrested in the West Bank. Boys of 14 and 15 are taken by the Israeli Army for days of interrogation without formal charges, without counsel, without visits from their parents."

#### "The Boy Confessed During Interrogation"

"The office of the army spokesman, Brig. Gen. Yaakov Even, would provide only general information on the cases of Fadel el-Kheldi and the other boys. Fadel was arrested 'for terrorist offences, such as belonging to an illegal organization,' an officer said. The boy confessed during interrogation and would be tried before a military court, the army said, but what he is said to have confessed and for what he will be tried, General Even's office refused to specify.

"The residents of the Jalazoun Camp, a slum of small, damp, cold houses jammed together along narrow alleys about 10 miles north of Jerusalem, surmise that the arrests are connected with incidents of stone-throwing at Israeli cars and buses that pass the camp on the main road or with slogans supporting the Palestine Liberation Organization that appeared on walls some weeks ago. But nobody is sure. Some think that boys are picked up because their names are mentioned by other, older teenagers during interrogation. 'Sometimes they take anybody and start asking questions, and under threat he says any names,



“ALL THESE SOLDIERS  
FOR TAKING A CHILD?”

any names just to be free,’ Moussa Ahmed Masaoud, 15, explained.”

#### Moussa Stripped and Held for 49 Days

“He was arrested December. 12, he said, and was released after 49 days. It was his first time in jail. It was tougher than he had imagined. The soldiers came for him at night, too, about 11:30, he said. He was blind-folded and handcuffed and taken to Ramallah, just south of the camp, where he was placed alone in a small cell. In the morning, interrogation began. He was taken into a corridor made cold by an open door and an open window. He was stripped, he said, and cold water was poured over him as four Israelis questioned him in Arabic.”

The intense interrogation went on for four days, he said, then lightened somewhat for the next five. “They hit me but not very hard, he contended. They used bad words about my mother, my sister, my father. The obscenities about his mother made him the most angry, he said.

“I never imagined that jail was such a thing, he said. It’s much worse than I thought.” Worse in what way? Both in their and in my thinking that I was cut off from the world, my school, my family.

General Even’s office said he did not confess during questioning and was released for lack of evidence. The army denied his accusations of mistreatment

Moussa’s parents, like many other in the Jalazoun Camp, became refugees in 1948. In the fighting, many Arabs were driven out by the Israelis or fled to escape the battles. Life has never been the same. His mother, Kamle Yusef Shami, for example, lived with her husband in the village of Beit Nabela, near what is now Ben-Gurion International Airport. They had good land without many stones. They had olive trees and fine houses, she said. They grew wheat, sesame, and corn and kept two cows, a mule and some sheep.”

#### “Violence Is the Only Language The Israelis Understand”

A man from Bethlehem who believes in a Palestinian state but opposes violence said his 16-year-old son was recently arrested and held for two days and beaten and cursed by Israeli soldiers.



*Violence is the only language the Israelis understand*

The day after his release, he said, he came home with a book on how to build bombs. No! his father shouted at him. You must finish school and go to university and get a degree and come back. That is the way to help the Palestinian people. Not violence.

“Violence is the only language the Israelis understand,” the boy replied.

#### Sami’s Father Is Away; Mother not Allowed to Visit Him

Sami Yousif Ibrahim, a slight lad of 15, is seen by his mother and others in the ramshackle neighbourhood as a good boy. He prays, he is clever in school, he helps his mother, a local teacher, If-tikhar el-Khatib, said. He is in jail; his mother has not been allowed to visit him since his arrest Jan. 9. They are forcing him to hate them, his brother, 12, says. The army said that Sami, also arrested for terrorist offenses such as belonging an illegal organization, had confessed and would be tried.

“The father is in Amman, visiting his sick mother. Since the soldiers came, Sami’s mother, Fathmeh Mohammed Yousif, has been fearful at home at night with her two other children, so her aged parents come to keep her company as darkness falls. She shivers as she recalls the evening her son was taken away.

“It was about nine o’clock. I heard something outside. I was here only with the children. My husband wasn’t home. I was afraid. I asked, ‘Who’s at the door?’ Nobody answered. I was afraid and called louder. They told me, ‘Open or we’ll break the door.’ When they saw him they dashed to him, caught him by the arm and asked his name and said he was the one they wanted. They were just taking him for a visit, they said. They searched the other room. I said, ‘We haven’t even got a sharp knife.’ They took him in handcuffs. I said: All these soldiers for taking a child?”

Zionist Terrorism Begin-Style:

## THE DEIR YASSIN MASSACRE



*Deir Yassin:  
calculated massacre carried  
out by the terrorist Begin*

In their efforts to expel the Palestinian people from “a land without a people,” the Zionists, adopted a strategy of terror and intimidation of the Palestinian population. What happened on April 9, 1948, in Deir Yassin, a small village near Jerusalem, was clear evidence of that strategy as part of an organized terror campaign against the Arabs in Palestine. This policy still continues today.

The Zionists exploited the arbitrary UN Partition Resolution which gave them half the land; they triggered off the Palestinian exodus in 1948 by launching their attack on Deir Yassin, liquidating the entire defenceless civilian population of this Palestinian village.

The attack by the two main terrorist Zionist gangs, Irgun Zvai Leumi to whom Begin and Shamir, two prominent Israeli cabinet figures belong, and Stern, against Deir Yassin, the village which the Zionists themselves admitted was one of the “few peaceable Arab villages around Jerusalem and never had bad relations with Jews of the area”.

The attack aimed clearly to break the morale of the Arabs whose stubborn resistance kept the road between Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv closed. This was the pretext for a series of “calculated massacres” without which, in the distorted minds of the Zionists, Palestine could not be emptied of its Arab population and the Zionist state created.

As usual, the Zionist apologists found “excuses” for their crimes and barbaric acts, in order to “justify” this slaughter. They claimed that, both gangs, Irgun and Stern, were uncontrolled groups not subject to the orders of the Jewish

Agency or the Haganah, its military wing. However this was not the case, because full coordination and agreement had been obtained between all the factions.

What makes the Deir Yassin massacre the more brutal was that it was committed while most of the men were out of the village at work. When the invading terrorists stormed the village in a house to house search, throwing grenades inside the houses, the survivors, mostly women and children, were rounded up by the Zionists. The people were shot down in cold blood, while standing naked in corners or against the walls. Women and young girls were raped and old women molested.

After two days, the International Red Cross representative, Jacques deReyneir managed to enter the village and he discovered that 254 corpses of men, women and children had been thrown into the wells of the village or burnt. Nine female corpses were found to be carrying fetuses.

The fascist and racist philosophy which resulted in the brutal massacre of Deir Yassin is still the dominant philosophy of Zionism today.

This is evidenced daily in the repressive measures inside the occupied territories, including deportation, collective punishments, curfews and administrative arrests to force Palestinians from their land and usurp their rights.

The Fakhani, Beirut, residential area, bombed by Israeli war planes supplied by the U.S., was another carboncopy of that original Zionist colonialist policy designed by the founders of the Zionist entity.





## LET AS MANY PALESTINIAN CHILDREN DIE AS POSSIBLE

The following (slightly shortened) article was written by Dr. Rita Giacaman who is an assistant professor in the department of biology and biochemistry at the Bir Zeit University in the occupied West Bank of Palestine. (Bir Zeit University has been closed down by the Israeli military occupation several times, once during last November and December, and again on February 16, 1982. The present article, published in the Israeli *Jerusalem Post* on March 21,

1982, refuted the arguments presented in two articles by an Israeli "official," Wim van Leer, published in the *Jerusalem Post* of February 12 and 21. The Israelis tried to defuse the impact of a recent U.S. ABC television programme 20/20 (see the last two issues of *Palestine*), which also exposed the scandalous aspects of Israeli "health care" for the Palestinians under occupation.

"As a health professional and researcher who has been working in the West Bank for the past four years, I would like to highlight some issues dealing with health conditions in the West Bank and Gaza.

"To begin with, there is no need to falsify information so as to prove a point. The facts are that the health conditions in the occupied territories can at least be termed inadequate, at most, miserable. The Infant Mortality Rates — indices of the health of a population — that Van Leer quoted for the West Bank and Gaza are figures published by the Israeli military government. It is well known to many health experts, including those working within the military government's health apparatus, that they are quite an underestimation of the actual figures.

"Several Infant Mortality Rate studies on the West Bank (Katbeh, head of the Union of West Bank Physicians, 1975; Puyet, World Health Organisation scientist, 1978; Giacaman, Bir Zeit University, 1980 and 1981) show that Van Leer's figures severely underestimate the magnitude of the problem. The Infant Mortality Rate for the West Bank and Gaza is more likely to be a range, between about 50 deaths per 1,000 live births, in the best situation, to over 100 deaths per 1,000 live births in the worst. This Infant Mortality Rate approaches the worst ones in the world. I shall be more than happy to provide Mr. Van Leer with references on the subject, including original data collected during the last three years.

"In addition, it is also becoming clear that morbidity, and not only mortality, is fast-becoming a major health problem in the West Bank. Several studies have also been conducted in this area. Children are emphasized because they are a priority in health care and because it is generally accepted that children function as a barometre reflecting the overall health



Israel purposely neglects health care in occupied territories.

situation of a population, particularly in cases where information on birth and death registration is unreliable, such as is the case in the West Bank and Gaza.

"In other words, by way of anthropometry (weights and heights) and other physical measurements (anemia tests, fecal examinations, etc.), we are capable of accurately assessing the health status of children, and also gaining an understanding of the health conditions of the general population. Such studies clearly indicate that major causes of death among Palestinian children are malnutrition and infection, primarily respiratory and gastrointestinal, two disease categories that are termed preventable.

"Data on children's health in the area that I myself have collected further support this observation. It was found that there is a high rate of anemia and malnutrition among the children studies — up to 50 per cent rate of malnutrition among all children under the age of five in some communities — and a high rate of parasitic and infectious diseases. Such a health picture can be corrected relatively easily by simple preventive measures that do not require sophisticated equipment of the type found in some Israeli hospitals. But it seems that there is no interest in corrective action on the part of the responsible authorities.

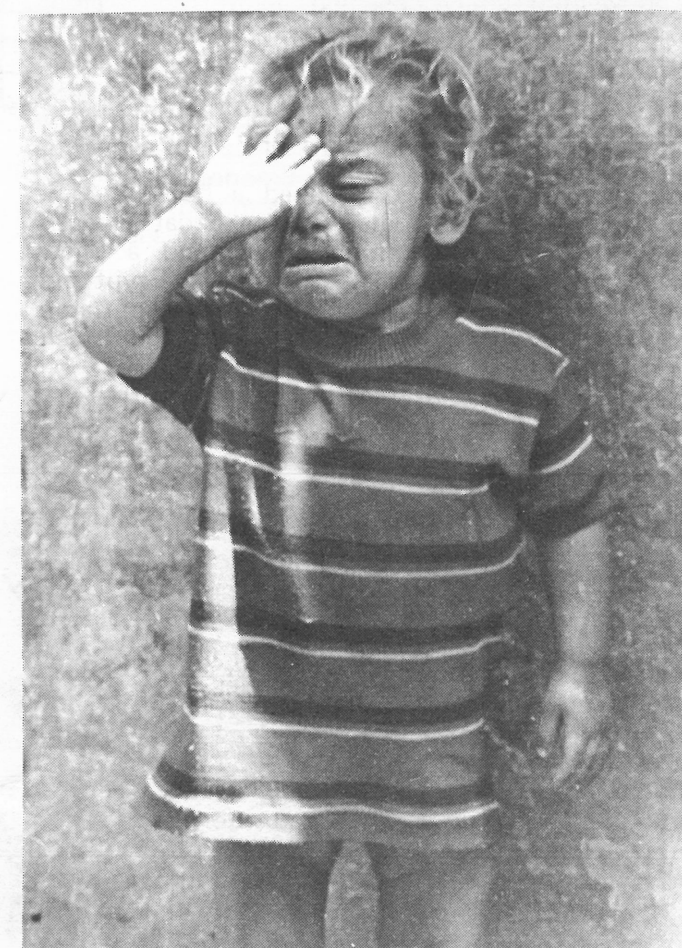
"This leads us to the second point that I would like to clarify: that of the administrative apparatus for health. Following the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the Israeli military authorities took over complete control of the existing governmental health facilities, previously administered by the Jordanian government, at which the majority of the population received health care.

"Since then, the military government has, at best, neglected even the maintenance of the existing health infrastructure, and, at worst, systematically suppressed the natural growth and development of health services. Several points could support the above argument. I shall mention only a few. First, there is an absence of a coordinated development plan for the health sector, a necessary precondition for its growth and development.

"Added to this is a miserably insufficient budget allocated for health by the military government. It is well known that not only does this not cover the maintenance of existing health facilities, but it also fails to fulfil people's basic needs. The West Bank medical services budget (both hospital and public health) for 1975, for instance, has been shown to be equivalent to about 60 per cent of the budget of one Israeli hospital alone for the same year (Katbeh, 1975).

"Adding insult to injury, this already insufficient budget is being reduced yearly. For instance, the health budget for 1978 was 12 per cent less than that of 1977; that of 1979 was 8 per cent less than that of 1978; and that of 1980 was 6 per cent less than that of 1979. And to top it all, it is known that about 30 per cent of the occupied territories' health budget is paid to Israeli hospitals for referral services (WHO, 1981) that would not have been necessary had it not been for the lack of interest on the part of the responsible body in maintaining adequate services in West Bank and Gaza health institutions.

"Budgetary problems that are compounded by further yearly cutbacks in an already deficient budget can only aggravate the situation, undermine the ability of health services in providing for people's



Palestinian child: barometre for health situation.

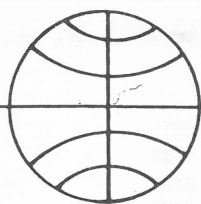
health needs, and, in the final analysis, can only reflect itself as a deterioration in the level of health of the population in question.

"I suspect it is the lack of basic equipment, basic medications and basic supporting services that drive Dr. Harb (a physician criticized in Van Leer's article) to frustration, and not his inability to perform high-technology surgery at Ramallah hospital.

"Dr. Harb's dilemma, and that of many health professionals working in the area, including myself, stems from the inability to perform their duty to fulfil even the basic and elementary health needs of people due to the constraints imposed on them by the political reality. The frustration of many health professionals working in the area stems from their knowledge and experience of a situation in which they see Palestinian health institutions being rendered into a state of paralysis, and being directed towards the road of destruction."



## WAR AND PEACE IN



## THE MIDDLE EAST

### A STEALTHY ANNIVERSARY: THREE YEARS CAMP DAVID "PEACE" TREATIES

"Peace has come", proclaimed a buoyant U.S. President Carter, and later Anwar Sadat bragged about the "historic turning point" and a "new dawn", on March 26, 1978, when Israel, Egypt and the United States signed the "peace" treaty of Camp David. Three years later, while tension and Israeli

immediately inflated the Israeli extremists with new force and has facilitated the realisation of their projects concerning the West Bank, the Golan, Lebanon and the Palestinians. As for Washington, it has obtained bridgeheads in the Middle East region.

"The U.S. has already pushed through the installation, in the framework of the "multinational forces



Israeli troops out;  
American troops in.

aggressiveness is spreading like a disease in the Middle East, the third anniversary of the "historic breakthrough" has passed with the least possible international notice and a remarkably embarrassed silence in Western capitals. The Soviet weekly "Moscow News" reminded the world of the wrecked event in a commentary of March 25:

"Who would like to celebrate the third anniversary of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty?

"It looks as though one can find hardly anyone apart from the United States, Israel and Egypt; and the latter only with many reservations: The reconciliation with Tel Aviv has done such great damage to Egypt that it will take the new Egyptian leadership a long time to cure the wounds afflicting its relations with the Arab world.

"Israel and the United States, however, congratulate themselves with pleasure: they have obtained quite a lot of the things they were after. Tel Aviv has avoided the confrontation with the greatest and strongest Arab state in the military field. This has

in the Sinai", of 800 men from the 82nd airborne division which is part of the "Rapid Deployment Forces". In this way, the United States has acquired a new leverage for pressure on the Arab states.

The result: growing tension in the Middle East, an extended threat of a new armed confrontation caused by the expansionist policy of Israel and its protectors from the other side of the Atlantic. Peace has hardly come any closer, and the United States is hastily grasping the fruits of the instability by imposing their military presence and their latest weaponry everywhere.

### LORD CARRINGTON'S "WHEELING PROPOSALS"

The cynical two-day visit to Israel by former British foreign minister Lord Carrington to Israel in late March, which took place while the Israeli occupation troops were massacring the Palestinian and Syrian people demonstrating for their freedom, has been criticized in the Arab world. The Syrian official news paper *Al Baath* for instance commented on April 2: "Lord Carrington, the devoted friend of Israel,



Carrington encouraging Israeli repression

should have respected the feelings of the Arabs and renounced his visit to Israel coinciding with the escalation of Israeli violence against the Arab citizens in the occupied territories." The paper deplored that "the West European countries had only paroles and wheedling proposals for the Arabs while extending their aid to Israel." "This game", the paper concluded, "could not find an end unless the Arabs reinforced their standing."

### EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION DEMANDS CANCELLATION OF "AUTONOMY TALKS"

The Progressive Unionist Grouping, the Nasserite

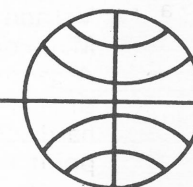
opposition party in Egypt, has called on the government to cancel the negotiations on Palestinian "autonomy" with Israel, pursued in the framework of Camp David. In a communique issued to the press on March 26, the Grouping underlined, that "the events in the West Bank which have taken the form of a great popular uprising, make it necessary that Egypt announces the cancellation of any negotiations on the so-called "autonomy talks", and to call for the adoption of a common Arab position to confront the Israeli occupation supported by the United States."

### AMERICAN TROOPS IN SINAI, DRUG-ADDICTS

A considerable number of men at the American military contingent, stationed on the Sinai Peninsula as part of the so-called "multinational force" are drug-addicts. This was shown by the results of the medical check-up of American servicemen before their dispatch to Egypt.

According to a report in the Israeli newspaper *Jerusalem Post* in late March, the signs of the use of drugs — cocaine, marijuana, opium, hashish were discovered in 150 out of 600 troops of one of the units of the 82nd U.S. Airborne Division. Despite the scandalous results of the medical check-up, only 50 men were barred from the "foreign mission".

## WORLD



## EVENTS

### MORE AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISORS IN HONDURAS

On March 22, the *New York Times* reported that one hundred U.S. military advisors are currently training Honduras' armed forces for actions against neighbouring Nicaragua. Their number has quintupled in the previous two months. In references to a U.S. State Department spokesman the newspaper said that the American advisers trained the Honduran army in maintaining helicopters, patrol boats and communication equipment. Members of the notorious special unit "Green Berets" are training border troops.

Mercenaries of the former Somoza regime have repeatedly staged subversive actions against Nicaragua from Honduran territory. More than 60 armed clashes have been reported in three years along the border and in territorial waters. The most recent occurred on March 21, when three Honduran jets attacked a Nicaraguan patrol boat that had arrested two Honduran fishing boats found in Nicaraguan territorial waters.

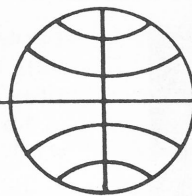
Meanwhile *UPI* reported from New York that the White House has approved a plan to pay bonuses to former and current members of the "Green Berets" to infiltrate Nicaragua. A former member of the Army Special Forces unit said on *CBS* television on March 22 that he was approached by his former commander and offered \$50,000 for six months — six weeks training in Central America followed by infiltration into Nicaragua. *CBS* said some members of the Special Force are being offered financial bonuses and may be pulled out of their current units to take part in the enterprise.

### NATO REJECTS BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL

Leonid Brezhnev in his Tashkent speech on March 24 repeatedly urged Nato to interpret the Soviet Union's decision to halt the deployment of SS20s as a meaningful concession towards an agreement to limit medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

The answer came only a few hours later from Colorado Springs where the NATO defence ministers





were meeting. They issued a communique in which they rejected Brezhnev's moratorium and decided to go ahead with plans to modernize medium-range missiles in Europe. The NATO ministers' announcement runs counter to the interests of peace and further increases tensions. It clearly shows the warmongering character of the policy of the Reagan administration to speed-up the arms race which threatens world peace.

On March 19, in Washington, Defence Department officials released new cost estimates of the Reagan administration's military build-up. The ultimate cost is expected to be \$114.5 million higher than estimated three months ago, the Pentagon has reported. The officials said that the cost increase, for weapons to be purchased over the next 15 years, is already reflected proportionately in the administration's proposed \$257.5 million budget for the next year and in the projected \$1.5 trillion cost for the military over the next five years. The officials put the eventual cost of 44 approved weapons systems at \$569.4 billion. They said this revised estimate took into account plans to purchase more weapons than were reflected in a similar report in January.

#### CIA ACCUSED OF ARMS SHIPMENT TO APARTHEID REGIME

On March 15, the subcommittee on Africa of the House Foreign Affairs Committee asserted in a report that a CIA officer had helped plan the illicit shipments of arms to the apartheid regime of South Africa between 1976 and 1978, which runs counter to a policy adopted in 1963 that forbids export of military equipment to the white minority government of South Africa.

The case involved the sale and shipment of approximately 60,000 155mm extended-range artillery shells, and at least four 155mm guns, including three advanced prototypes and what the subcommittee asserts was technology and technical assistance that permitted South Africa to establish its own facilities for manufacturing and testing such equipment.

The report added, that John J. Frost, a "defence consultant" with offices in Belgium and the United States, has said that the CIA enlisted him to try to procure surplus U.S. weapons in Thailand and Taiwan in 1975 to be forwarded to anti-Communist forces in Angola, which the United States covertly assisted.

The report also recommended to investigate the possible roles of employees, agents and contacts of the CIA in efforts to evade the U.S. embargo against South Africa during the Angolan civil war of 1975-76, and in the development of contacts between the South African government and a defunct American corporation that supplied the shells and artillery.

#### GUATEMALA'S BACK-DOOR ARMS SALES

The London-based magazine *8 Days* has disclosed the collaboration between the Reagan administration and Israel in supplying arms for the Guatemalan military dictatorship. While the Reagan administration is officially adhering to the U.S. embargo on arms to Guatemala it is smoothing Israel's path to supply its hardware. The attack on Israel's embassy in Guatemala City at the beginning of March has led to the recognition in Israel of the growing military exports to Guatemala since the Carter administration cut off weapon transfers in 1977. The followings are excerpts from the article published on March 13, 1982:

According to the *New York Times*, US General Vernon Walters's goodwill mission to Guatemala last May confirmed Washington's green light to Israel and Argentina — whose embassy was bombed at the same time as Israel's — to go on supplying Guatemala's hardware needs. Thus, the Reagan administration can point to its adherence to the five-year-old embargo as proof of its 'sturdy' human-rights policy without actually forcing the Guatemalan government to alter its record.

Guatemala was one of the countries that the Israeli economic coordination minister, Yacov Meridor, had in mind when revealing — at a business gathering last August — that Israel would like to act as a Washington proxy in parts of Central America and the Caribbean where political considerations prevented the US from providing military assistance.

While such an American-Israeli understanding was formalised in the now suspended (but not cancelled) strategic cooperation accord, the role is nothing new. Long before it could enter the international arms trade as an exporter, Israel established links with Latin American armed forces when it was enlisted by the Kennedy administration to popularise civic action programmes that were based on Israeli paramilitary youth schemes as a counter to Cuban influence. Not surprisingly, Guatemalans were among those to receive specialised instruction in courses sponsored by the defence ministry's department for cooperation and foreign liaison.

However, significant Israeli military sales to Guatemala only began in Kjell Laugerud Garcia's presidency. Laugerud, a former chief of staff, visited Israel in 1971 and again just before he took office in 1974 — when he ended his private 'pilgrimage' with a pledge to expand cooperation. During his rule the dispute over Belize heated up, as did internal repression, especially in 1975 when General Lucas Garcia, then defence minister, set up militarised zones where the disappearance of political opponents multiplied. Guatemala's bad human-rights record led Jimmy Carter to ban transfers of American weapons.

The Guatemalans then began to buy in Israel. No less than ten Arava military planes, well-suited for counter-insurgency purposes, and a similar number of RBYI armoured personnel carriers were acquired in government-to-government transactions, according to the Washington publication *Strategy Week*. Private deals involved smaller items: the Tel Aviv headquarters of Eagle Military Gear Overseas, for example, has addressed potential Central American buyers to its regional sales office, based in Guatemala's Corfijo Reform hotel.

Looking back, earlier attacks on the Israeli embassies in Paraguay and El Salvador influenced Tel Aviv's decision to close down its missions in both countries. Ironically, since 1980 the Israeli ambassador to Guatemala is also accredited as his country's non-resident envoy to El Salvador. This move was meant to minimise the risks Israeli envoys faced in San Salvador after the embassy was bombed and the honorary consul, Ernesto Liebes, kidnapped and murdered.

#### EL SALVADOR SHAM ELECTIONS MET BY NEW POPULAR OFFENSIVE

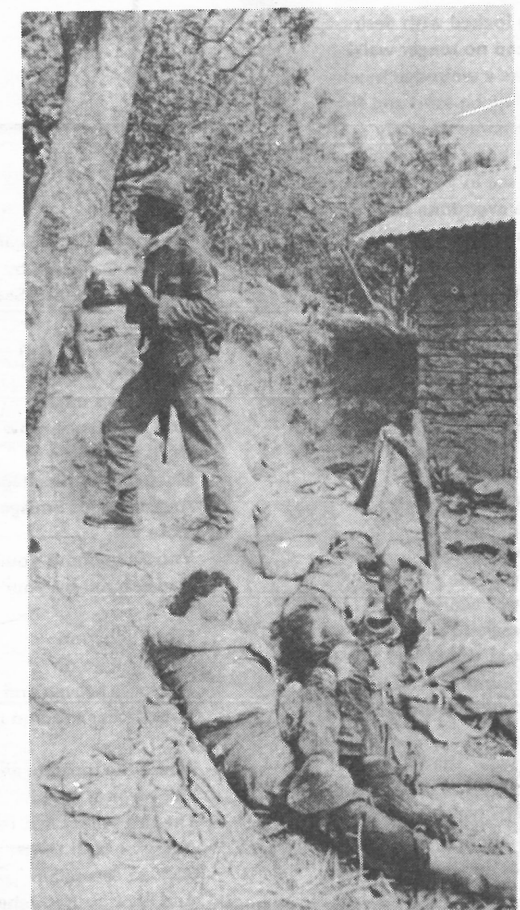
On March 28, the fascist regime in El Salvador conducted the long-awaited sham elections that the Reagan Administration had hoped would serve as a propaganda tool for stepping up military aid to the beleaguered regime. The liberation forces called for a general boycott of the elections which offered a choice between the right and the far right. The boycott was successful in about 40% of the country controlled by the liberation forces as well as in contested areas. By the junta's own admission about 10% of the people who did vote marked their ballots with an "X" indicating a protest against the whole charade. In areas under the junta's control people were forced to vote as their identity cards were marked at polling places. Many Salvadorans feared that if they didn't vote, they would be the target of right-wing death squads later.

The winner in the elections was the far right coalition headed by a former National Guard officer, Major Roberto d'Aubuisson. He has been accused of being the ringleader of the right-wing death squads.

Reporting in the *Guardian* on March 30, Jonathan Steele quoted the former American ambassador to El Salvador, Robert White, describing d'Aubuisson as a "pathological killer."

Timed with the elections, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front has launched a successful new offensive against the fascist regime. On March 28, FMLN units engaged junta troops in eight districts in the capital. Key roads and towns were attacked all over the country. The FMLN units and popular militia were able to kill 41 junta soldiers on the 28th while suffering only 15 casualties themselves. A major victory was scored in the southwest of the country when FMLN members captured the police barracks in Usulután which is the fourth largest city in the country. They now control the city. In the two days following the elections FMLN forces continued the offensive. An airport was taken near San Francisco Gotera in the east. This city is the administrative centre for Morazan Province. Liberation forces have also captured Rosario, which is 40 miles from the capital and have destroyed a strategically important bridge in the area.

The Reagan Administration will be hard-pressed in the weeks ahead to justify an American military escalation in El Salvador with the regime soon to be led by a "pathological killer." No doubt Reagan and Haig will try.



Salvadoran junta's daily massacres of civilians



## THE PROMISED LAND

by Chafic Ataya

A tear trickled through my throat,  
When one old refugee held high  
An olive branch to show Mankind.  
Condemned for years into a camp  
Painted with human shame and misery,  
He stood before my eyes to stamp  
Upon the world a shattered memory.  
There was nothing for him from home,  
Nothing to tell a child  
Whose father there had died  
Choked by a cellous hand  
That had usurped his land.  
Nothing but tears and sorrow.  
He poured upon the morrow  
To tell the people of the world  
About a poem called: THE PROMISED LAND.

Grandson,  
The word went on,  
You are my only one,  
Therefore, hear me anon:

Christmas will come,  
So will the coming year,  
Loaded with every feast  
That shoots from our East.

My heart is locked with desire,  
But yet, I can no longer walk...  
I am just like a wounded hawk  
Falling, falling on sand and fire...  
The year to come can only score  
The solemn hope right at my door.  
But more I see in you and more  
Than I have ever done before...  
I see in you the star  
That shines for me afar,  
The star that shines for me  
From here on to eternity...

Listen, my child,  
My only hope and kind,  
Listen to me:

The Christmastide  
Shall wash aside  
My broken memory...  
The year ahead  
Will only stir in me  
An open sea of agony...  
But all the years in sight  
Shall anchor at your feet  
To fill your humble little hut  
With all the wine of thought.

Indeed, the years that lie ahead  
Will bear to you the sacred bread,  
The mellow fruits of Autumn,  
The vintage and holy hymn,  
Cheese, olives and sunset orange  
And all that I have drained  
Out of my heart and mind...  
And all that which is mine,

*Chafic Ataya is a Palestinian poet whose basic belief confirms the living organic aspect of the Universe. The Earth itself, in which he is deeply and proudly rooted, is sanctified by him to be the home of birth and rebirth of vitally natural and supernatural forces incarnated in primal regenerating deities, such as Adonis, Astarte and even Jesus, The Nazarene. Man himself, it follows, is no less privileged than an ever-living being.*

*Among other values embodied in his work, love rules supreme; yet this is not to define him as a poet of easy personal piety and cosmic optimism. His song of human happiness alternates with the kind of grinding teeth of an indignant victim crushed by his own personal and national fate that manifests itself as an absurd historical hazard and accident of birth.*

*His poetical structure in all its implication could be qualified as being simple and direct; it is indeed a daring act of creation to come after the intricate and oversophisticated age of Eliot and Auden; his spontaneous flow of utterances could be justifiably compared by their incantational impact to ritual sermons of prophet and priest prevailing in the ancient East; his production may stir a refreshing emotion similar to theirs in the stiffening poetry that is presently dominant in the Western world.*

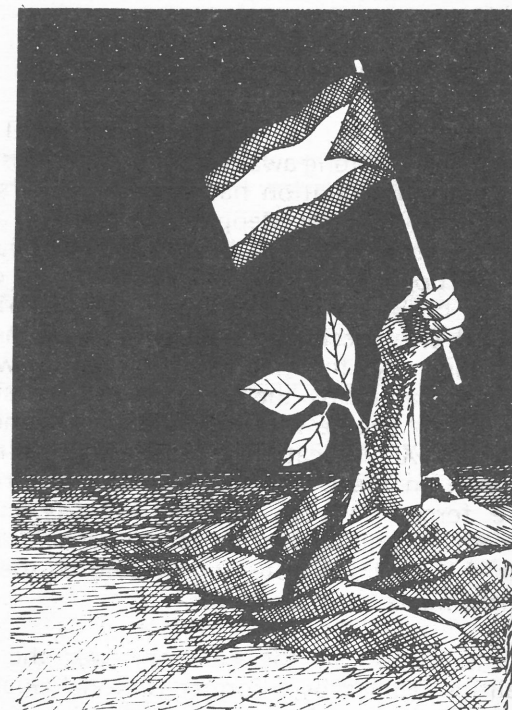
Dr. Khalil Hawi  
Professor of Arabic and Literary  
Criticism  
American University of Beirut

I'll pour for you again  
In cups hollowed by bitter years  
And by the Dead Sea of my tears.

Take heed, my son  
And only one:  
In will and might,  
You will hence grow  
Until you come to know  
More of your heritage  
And adamant lineage.  
More yet,  
You will behold your soil in flood  
Made sacred by your people's blood

From Lebanon  
You shall go on  
To God's heaven and home,  
Your father's sacred land,

Where the mosque and dome  
Will for ever stand.  
The day will come, my boy,  
And you shall thrust your way  
Back to Jerusalem  
And back to Bethlehem  
Where angels have always sung  
For you and me and everyone.



## Short Story

## THE DUMB MAN OF GAZA

by Abdul Latif Muhanna

## The idiot! The moron! The dumb man!

Thus he was known to the alleys of Gaza and the sad, refugee camp of rusty huts adjoining its un-avenge shore.

## The dumb man!

That was the hunchback who wandered around districts which resented his shabby, miserable form with the frightening caricature of a face. Eyes fled from his tragic spectacle, and he was pursued by a shower of stones from the children on the oppressed pavements, aimed at the silent, curved back.

## The dumb man!

He was the ignored zero always among the statistics of the people in the population census of that region in 1970, the year of generous revolutionary sacrifice in the programme of Gaza, revolutionary Gaza.

## The idiot! The moron! The dumb man!

No one was concerned with a life embodied by the characteristics of nonentity. This man who went in and out begging for alms in the barracks of the alien enemy was the butt of jokes and fun which amused the generals of Zion. He was the only Arab who could sit inside these barbed wire fences, bumped by the shining boots, his hand shaken by their dark hands, bid farewell with fascist laughs. He would stretch out his hands to receive a coin thrown to him after a while.

The spectacle was repeated daily, and the stage presented two acts for the one hero.

The first was an act ignored by the people, and the second was a daily amusement... in Gaza barracks.

## Suddenly...

The stage shook, its pillars trembled, astonishment followed, sweeping over the front rows of the first act, the Arabs of the land, and shaking the structure of the generals of the second act. The players of both acts saw the wondrous amusement turn into a revolutionary drama, a sudden surprise which amazed those who were not expecting it.

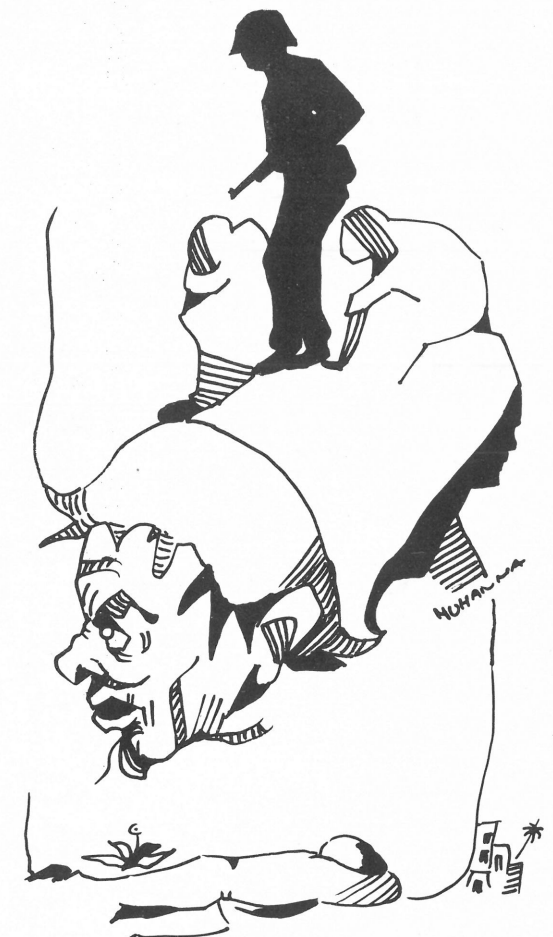
The curtain came down, and was rent apart with an ending that no one expected, which echoed on the horizon of the shore on the western side of Gaza, and explosive charge in the barbed wire Zionist fortress... followed by a second... a third... a seventh. The enemy's helmets flew in all directions, the generals'

medals were torn to shreds, the American steel was melted. The eighth explosion ended the exemplary and legendary tragedy. The body of the dumb man of Gaza was blown apart, the moron's bones were scattered, planted in the sand of the shore. The idiot's blood flowed as torches which consumed the quivering barbed wire... and the dumb hero was gone.

The dumb man of Gaza was gone.

The dumb man was the champion at reconnaissance, the idiot was expert at planting deadly explosive charges in the body of the oppressive occupation, the moron exercised a revolutionary right exceeding revolutionary consciousness itself.

The dumb man lives on in the depth of death, and the yellowed propaganda papers die in the coffin of the stupidity of Arab desk drawers. The dumb man was more intelligent than these papers.







by Mohammad al-Shaer

## The Palestinian Women's Struggle

# Palestine

P.L.O.  
information  
bulletin

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## Palestine Lives