



The following article was written by the « Women's International League for Peace and Freedom » . . . Lebanese section. It was published on March 29, 1976.

It is impossible these days to read a daily newspaper without running across news of the continuing uprising in Occupied Palestine. Jerusalem, Jineen, Ramallah, Tulkarem, Nablus are all battlefronts where hundreds and thousands of Palestinians engage the Zionist forces in daily confrontations. This has forced the Israeli authorities to increase their military presence in the West Bank.

In addition to the uprising, effective and courageous military operations are carried out by the Palestinian Resistance Movement. The « Ghassan Kanafani Unit » of the PFLP conducted an attack on Israeli soldiers in the village of Maythaloun, near Jineen that resulted in the killing of 14 enemy soldiers. Also, in spite of the fact that the village was encircled by enemy troops and several of the villagers were arrested, all the commandos were able to disappear into safety. The PFLP communique which was issued by the leadership of the occupied territories asserted that such operations are an effective response to Israeli schemes of holding local elections and the expropriating of Arab lands. The enemy radio in its Hebrew broadcast was forced to admit the successful carrying out of the operation.

We simply say that in spite of all the precautionary security measures that are taken by the Israeli enemy, our people and our militants will continue to develop and advance the struggle. It is a historical fact that once a people's movement is set in motion there are no insurmountable obstacles.



resting 200 Arab Muslims who were praying in the Mosque.

This immediately sent a wave of shock throughout the Muslim world

#### WEEK THREE :

For the first time since the beginning of these strikes Israeli armoured cars and tanks appear in Jerusalem to attack civilian demonstrators who could only retaliate with stones and sticks and empty bottles. As a result 18 Arabs were arrested among whom was a girl of 15. Thus, families of those arrested under Israeli Administrative Detention held a sit-in outside the offices of the Red Cross demanding the release of their children.

The strikes went on in other West Bank towns where the Palestinian Flag was unfurled and demonstrators called for an end to occupation.

Christian and Muslim Arab religious leaders presented petitions of protest against the violence used by Israel's army of occupation. Meanwhile in Bireh Israeli troopers broke into the high school and assaulted both faculty and students, many of whom were hospitalized. In Bethlehem high school students held a sit-in against Israeli violence. In Nablus more than 70 men and women were arrested and an Israeli military tribunal imposed fines varying between 2 and 5 thousand Israeli pounds. In Bir Zeit the strikers took refuge in the University buildings.

Resistance continued in Hebron, Tulkarm, Qalqilya and Jenin where a curfew was imposed in the latter two towns.

On Feb. 13th the resistance tried to take refuge in the Aqsa Mosque. But Israeli troopers prevented their entry by force. The attempt was renewed on the third day when Israeli troops opened up with automatic fire against demonstrating Arabs. The commander of the Israeli border-guards was wounded, 30 Arabs were arrested and 20 were critically wounded.

All business closed down and clashes took place in Nablus and Tulkarm. Israeli authorities decreed that all citizens of Ramallah, Nablus, Bireh and Jericho were to be confined to their home towns.

#### WEEK FOUR :

Israel's military Governor of Jericho ordered his troops to break open all locks of shops on strike and to force them to re-open for business. In Jerusalem the Israeli army not only prevented worshippers from entering the Aqsa Mosque but evicted all worshippers inside it by force. Then they also arrested the Mayor of Ramallah. Qalandiya refugee camp went on strike and oil was poured on the road to impede the advance of Israeli motorized troops. Now the army of occupation attacked the villages of Barqa, Fandaquniya, Silat al-

## REVOLT IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE

The latest wave of resistance to Israeli occupation started after the United States vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israeli repression and settlement in the villages of Sabastia & Kafar Qaddum near the town of Nablus.

The decision by an Israeli court to permit « Jews to pray in the Aqsa Mosque area has clearly a political rather than a religious decision. The Arabs recognized this as part of an ongoing Israeli Plan to change the status of Jerusalem. Palestinian Arabs, under occupation since 1948 joined this wave of resistance, when Israel ordered the expropriation of one and a half million Dunums (1 Dunum = 1000 sq meters) of Arab land in Upper Galilee and near the city of Rafah.

The resistance movement began in Nablus on 26/1/1976 with strikes and

demonstrations. When the Israelis attempted to stop them by armed force the demonstrators blocked the roads by setting fire to car tires. The unrest spread to Jericho, Jerusalem, Jenin, Ramallah and eventually to Hebron, Tulkarem and Qalqilya. The demonstrators used schools, hotels and municipality buildings as their shelters. But were pursued by Israeli soldiers who broke in and clashed with the resisters. The situation soon became explosive. Cables of protest were sent to the U.N. Secretary General and the International Red Cross representatives.

#### WEEK TWO :

During the second week resistance spread to Bethlehem. The Israeli authorities isolated the city of Nablus from

the rest of the occupied land of the west bank, where many high school students were arrested. As a result a general strike was called throughout the rest of the West Bank, and Israeli border-guards and police came out to break up the strike.

Ninety-five Arabs, men and women were arrested in Ramallah and Bireh, where Israeli stormtroops turned a high school into a staging center for attacks.

In the middle of the 2nd week resistance spread into Jerusalem where there were demonstrations against the Israeli court-order permitting Jews to worship inside the Haram al-Sharif, inside which the Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock are located. The supreme Muslim Council sent a cable of protest against this order to the Israeli authorities. The Israeli army of occupation, however, retaliated by ar-



Zahr, Jamaeen and Beit Furak, where they conducted a house to house search and arrested 116 men and women. Resistance had now spread throughout the West Bank.

#### WEEK FIVE :

At the start of the fifth week resistance spread to Gaza where thousands demonstrated against Israeli occupation. Israeli troops were ordered to stop the demonstrators and clashed with killing 2 Arabs, wounding 53 and arresting 262. The troops harassed even those who had not taken part, and this led to increased violence which resulted in dozens of Arab casualties.

When news spread that Bishop Capucci's health had deteriorated, as a result of the hunger strike which he had begun on Jan. 28, tension visibly increased. Rallies were held in Jerusalem, Ramallah and Beit Sahur. Cables protesting his detention were sent out. Israel chose this moment to announce their decision of expropriating 20 thousand Dunums in Upper Galilee. Both Nablus and Jericho warned that they would call for an open strike. In Jerusalem clashes took place between Arabs and 12 hundred Israelis who were forcing their way into the Aqsa Mosque to pray there. In Nablus and Jenin tension grew as a result of arbitrary Israeli decrees ordering refugee camps to be merged with neighbouring towns to facilitate the erection of Zionist settlements in their place.

Arab inhabitants were further harassed by the increasing activity of settler groups belonging to the extreme right-wing Israeli Likud party who began forcible settlement in the area between Jenin and Tulkarm. Demonstrations again took place in Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah and Bireh, 320 Arabs were arrested including 100 women. Arab political prisoners and detainees joined in by announcing a fortnight hunger strike in the prisons of Beit Leed and Bir Sheiba. Women political prisoners in Ramah prison announced a hunger strike in protest against administrative detention. *The resistance movement spread to Galilee, occupied since 1948, where leaders and heads of municipalities met in a series of sessions in an attempt to frustrate Israel's plan of expropriation. It was decided to call for a general strike throughout the occupied territories on March 30th, 1976, which would be designated the Date of the Land.*

#### WEEK SIX :

Large Israeli troop re-inforcements were rushed into Nablus following the resignation of the Mayor and council in protest against Israel's violence and repression, the city's businessmen called for an open strike in solidarity. This was soon followed by the collective resignation of the teachers.

Ultimately the whole city was on strike and Israel's army of occupation fired on the strikers killing 7 Arabs and wounding 164. The strikers retaliated with stones and Molotov cocktails destroying two armoured cars. The army then arrested a large number of strikers including 12 teachers. Arab women also very much in the fore-front of the strikers. They organized sit-ins throughout the mosques of the West Bank in protest against the massacres in Nablus. In Jerusalem the women took refuge in the Aqsa Mosque and sent petitions of protest to the Red Cross and Foreign embassies. There were further clashes in Jenin, Hebron, Bireh and Ramallah. The municipal councils of six towns in the West Bank issued condemnations of the massacres. Mean while Arab demonstrators reached the heart of Tel Aviv. At the same time Arab political prisoners clashed with their guards as a result of their deplorable conditions. The Israeli guards used tear gas to quell the demonstrating prisoners.

#### WEEK 7 :

*Resistance and strikes continue. For the first time, since the 1948 occupation, there was a peaceful demonstration in Nazareth on March 18th. In Jerusalem alone 500 were arrested and 200 were released after paying a fine of 25 thousand Israeli pounds. In the village of Abu Dis clashes led to the death of a boy of 11 and the critical wounding of a girl of 14 and a boy of 19. This resulted in a great wave of unrest in Hebron, Halhoul and Jenin. Israeli soldiers used violence and repression which led again to the proclamation of a general strike. Leaflets protesting Israeli occupation were distributed throughout the West Bank and a curfew was re-imposed in Ramallah and Bireh. Mean while, Sheikh Abu Tir, a Muslim religious leader detained in Ramleh prison, declared a hunger strike in solidarity with Bishop Capucci and the other detainees. Israeli occupying*

authorities now called on paratroopers to effectuate the repression of Arab civilians.

#### WEEK EIGHT :

A large demonstration took place in Jerusalem in protest to the killing of the 11 year old boy from Abu Dis. The Israelis arrested fifty youths.

The Mayor and Council of Beit Sahur resigned, bringing the total of resignations of municipal councils to 8. The curfew in Ramallah and Bireh continued and was now imposed also in Hebron and Halhoul where heavily armed police petrolled the streets. The army of occupation then surrendered Arab Jerusalem imposing collective punishment by cutting off the city's electricity and telephones. The number of detainees in the West Bank reached a total of 2025 Arabs and fines of thousands of Israeli pounds were imposed and collected. On the 27th of March the Israelis arrested 50 girl students and 3 of their women teachers in the Lycees School of Arab Jerusalem. They also expelled two prominent medical doctors (Drs. A. Hamweh and A. Hajj Ahmad) who were led blind-folded and left at the Lebanese border to make their way on foot into some village.

This resistance movement is to continue and reach a climax on March 30th (The DAY OF THE LAND). Meanwhile Israel's occupation authorities carry on with their violent repression. Despite the brutal nature of such Israeli treatment the spirit of Palestinian Resistance has not been crushed. To quote Israeli Minister Shimon Perez : « All measures taken to end the violence have proven inadequate. The use of the army was necessary in spite of opposition from some quarters. But the troops entrusted with the job of ending these resistance movements and the state of chaos and insecurity were not sufficient and by themselves cannot accomplish the desired aim if they are not re-inforced and if such re-inforcement is not

carried out in coordination with the military governors of the administered territories ».

#### ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS :

In Helsinki the world Peace Council condemned the brutalities committed by Israel's army of occupation. The Council sent a letter of protest to the Israeli Premier Rabin expressing the revulsion of international public opinion towards the violent and revengeful acts committed against Arab civilians, the letter also called for the release of all Arab detainees. The Peace Council announced that 10 international organizations and 16 member states of the U.N. had sent similar letters of protest against Israel's violence.

In Berlin the newspaper Neuces Deutschland condemned Israeli repression in the following terms : Israeli occupation authorities have been unable to quell the resistance of the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories despite various acts of repression and terrorism committed against them.

Thousands of demonstrators marched in Pakistan in protest against Israel's brutal occupation of Arab land.

Throughout the Arab Countries a wave of revulsion spread. Public and private institutions, trade-unions, women organizations and student federations called for solidarity with the Arabs of the occupied lands.

Muslim countries called for an urgent meeting of the Security Council, and non-aligned States submitted a resolution condemning Israel's occupation and the measures adopted to change the status of Jerusalem. This resolution was supported by 14 member states of the Security Council including all the permanent members except the United States which vetoed the resolution.

#### COINCIDENCE OR COLLABORATION ?

As hundreds of our people were being arrested by the Zionist forces in Occupied Palestine as they took part in the general strike on the occasion of the « Day of the Land », our people in Syria and Egypt faced similar fates. In Damascus nine (9) Palestinian students were arrested during a March in solidarity with the masses of the occupied territories. In the speeches delivered at the march, it was made clear that the students were against capitulationist settlements and any attempts of imposing tutelage or hegemony over the Palestinian Resistance Movement and the Lebanese Progressive forces. To prevent the development of the demonstration 300 men of the security forces attacked

the demonstration whereby six of the students were injured. In addition this wave of repression also spread to Camp Yarmouk against the Palestinian people who were demonstrating their solidarity with their counterparts in Occupied Palestine.

In Egypt, Sadat's hounds attacked various rallies organized in solidarity with the « Day of the Land ». In Cairo a symposium on the uprising in the occupied territories was terminated when the secret services and the police attacked the audience and the participants causing various injuries. In the meantime, the police in Alexandria attacked a rally organized by the General Union of Palestinian Students. In spite of the

attack, the rally moved to the street as the participants raised slogans supporting the Palestinian Resistance Movement and calling for the downfall of the enemies of the people — the collaborators with Imperialism.

The force and violence invoked against the demonstrators can only be compared and equated to that used by the Israeli authorities against our people in Occupied Palestine.

Briefly, the actions of the Egyptian and Syrian regimes are a sober reminder that though our primary contradiction is the resolution of the national question, we should never forget the class dimension of this phase. *Finally, in the long-run, Sadat and Assad are and will be expendable as our masses assert their right for liberation free of any tutelage and containment.*