

deportation orders rescinded. In addition to Palestinian and progressive Israeli lawyers appealing their cases, several prominent European and US lawyers have protested. Some have visited Jerusalem to investigate the facts. Their comments are revealing. As stated to *Al Fajr*, the Swiss lawyer Pierre Toffel clearly denounced the whole conception of deportation: «Even in the Nuremberg court, deportation was considered a war crime.» A Greek lawyer compared the process against the four to the Greek junta's handling of arrests and trial, in terms of the difficulties encountered by lawyers, the press and others seeking to **know the facts and promote justice.**

Mass protests have been organized against the deportations, especially in the detainees' hometowns. In one of these, 40 women marched in Al Bira in

early November. Their demonstration was forcibly disrupted by the occupation troops and 30 of them were arrested. The arrest of women is becoming more frequent under the reactivated iron fist policy. In another recent incident, 16 women were arrested in Gaza, and sentenced in a single court session, receiving sentences of three to nine months imprisonment and fines ranging from 300,000 to 750,000 shekels (\$240-600).

### **Economic iron fist**

The iron fist is constantly being reinforced with other more 'subtle' measures aimed at undermining the Palestinians economically in their own homeland. For example, this year, the olive crop was banned from export, and other crops were destroyed. Exorbitant taxes were imposed on merchants and far-

mers. Herds of sheep and other animals were confiscated and their owners fined. In the Gaza Strip, fishermen were forcibly prevented from catching fish.

Moreover, Palestinians under occupation continue to pay the price of 'solutions' proposed for the Israeli economic crisis. Prices have been raised on a wide range of basic consumer goods. Taxes are being raised. Inflation decreases the real value of wages. Rising unemployment hits the Palestinian Arab worker first, especially those from the occupied territories. It is estimated that 20% of the Palestinian Arabs in the 1948 occupied territories are unemployed. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 35% are unemployed. The Arab municipalities in the Galilee are still facing bankruptcy, due to lack of state funding.

## *No to Normalizing Occupation*

*Below are the comments of three prominent progressive nationalist Palestinians in the occupied territories, concerning the appointments in Nablus, and Israeli-Jordanian cooperation.*



**Bassam Shakaa**  
*elected mayor of Nablus*

Over the eighteen years of occupation, the Israeli authorities have gradually replaced the Jordanian laws by the British Mandate's Emergency Laws and by military decrees issued by the successive military governments, regardless of international law. Nevertheless, the Israeli authorities kept some pro-Jordanian elements in some public fields

such as health and education, after making sure that they would carry out Israeli policies, implementing the laws of the military and 'civil' administration. For instance, the education department and curriculum is subject to control by the Israeli education officer who supervises the discipline of these elements in carrying out Israeli policy. In short, since 1967, the occupation authorities have planned and worked for implementing 'civil' administration. They carried on with these policies which became especially aggressive in 1976, when the municipal council elections took place, resulting in a popular referendum which showed our people's rejection of 'civil' administration.

The appointment of non-elected figures to head the municipal councils, and the fact that the appointees accepted and were encouraged to do so by some chambers of commerce, is a submission and a retreat from the nationalist line. It reinforces the occupation policy and strikes against the nationalist forces and program. Those who accepted these appointments, or encouraged such acceptance, are puppets used by some to offer free services to the occupation, ignoring the interests

of their people and cities. Meanwhile, the friends of our people are taking a supportive stand of the councils that have refused to submit to the occupation policies.

Those who are serving the occupation and its plans, especially this plan of appointments, should realize that they will not be able to diverge from the policies planned for them by the occupation authorities. They should also realize that what goes on with their help is an Israeli game aiming to convert the struggle to an inter-Palestinian one, instead of a Palestinian-Israeli struggle.

In the city of Nablus, for instance, attempts were made to divert attention from the Israeli plan to gain full control of the municipal council's water and electricity project. The appointment of an Arab council is intended to divert attention from the real aims. As of now, they have cancelled the Bir al Faraa project and are supplying part of the city's water needs from the Israeli Mekerot Company. They are disconnecting the electricity lines of the northern and eastern parts of Nablus from the council's electricity project and connecting them to the Israeli district electric company. This forced the workers and engineers of the