

Stop the Deportations

On February 2nd, the PFLP convened a press conference to publicize the latest deportation orders issued against Palestinians by the Zionist occupation authorities, as part of the iron fist policy. Spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif opened the press conference, reading the following statement:

Palestinians in the occupied territories are being subjected to a serious escalation of repression by the Israeli military authorities, designed to disrupt the various aspects of their daily lives. The recent escalation is a culmination of the reimposition of the iron fist policy some months ago, and its imposition against institutions and scores of citizens. This means officially sponsored acts of terror and intimidation against the Palestinian people, their national institutions, holy places and political rights. Internationally forbidden acts are being committed against civilians and their property under Zionist occupation. This occurs at a time when 'Israel' has embarked on a campaign against «terrorism» in order to divert attention from the aggravated situation in the occupied territories.

We draw your attention to the policy of collective punishment, the destruction of houses, the seizure of privately owned land and the policy of arbitrary arrest and detention, invoking the administrative detention law which dates back to the British Mandate.

All these projects testify to the racist and aggressive character of the Israeli occupation. Over 1500 citizens have been detained in the last six months without being formally charged or tried. Thirty-two deportation orders have been issued during the same period and 29 residents have actually been deported. Recently four more were detained and are awaiting deportation to Jordan. They are:

1. Adnan Mansour Ghanem who had been liberated in May 1985 after having spent 17 years in Israeli jails. Reports indicate that he was jailed without being charged, under administrative detention. Reports also indicate that he is being subjected to severe torture and now has several broken bones.

2. Mahmoud Mohammad Fannoun who had previously been jailed, then released on several occasions. He later enrolled in Bethlehem University where

he was constantly harassed by the authorities because of his agitation against the occupation. He now faces death under torture by the Israeli jailers. The last report was that he had suffered several broken ribs and a severe hemorrhage that necessitated his hospitalization.



3. Hassan Mohammad Al Amoudi who was rearrested after his release in May 1985 after 15 years imprisonment. He too is reported to have been severely tortured despite his poor health and injuries suffered during his previous imprisonment.

4. Halal Hafez Aziza who was rearrested without specific charges following his release in May 1985. He is also being subjected to torture despite the handicaps he has from previous imprisonment.

These persons were liberated from prison in May 1985 under the terms of a prisoner exchange agreement negotiated by the International Red Cross, whereby 'Israel' agreed, in the person of the Defense Minister, not to harass the released prisoners, and to allow over 600 of them to remain in their homes with their families. The recent Israeli actions are therefore in violation of an internationally sponsored agreement. In view of this fact, we call upon the international community, the Red Cross and Switzerland, the country that officially sponsored the agreement, to intervene on behalf of the above-mentioned prisoners. We also call upon all democratic,

civil and human rights organizations to do likewise.

There are also persistent reports that the prisoners have been under severe torture which prompted their attorney Lea Tsemel to file a protest against these acts of torture and demand the prisoners' immediate release. It is noteworthy that the previous group of detainees that were ordered deported were denied, by the military court, the right to appeal to the Supreme Court. They were deported