

Iron Fist in Zionist Jails

In mid-December, Palestinian prisoners staged partial hunger strikes, protesting the grossly deteriorating conditions in the Zionist jails. The strikes spread to jails throughout occupied Palestine, involving over 1500 political prisoners.

After more than a week, the strikes halted. The Israeli prison authorities had meanwhile promised to address some of the prisoners' grievances, but all indications are that the Zionist authorities are hardening their repression against the prisoners in line with the application of the iron fist policy in the occupied territories generally. The prisoners may again find it necessary to repeat their protest.

Need for solidarity

In the light of this situation, the Committee for the Defense of Palesti-

nian Political Prisoners in Israeli Jails addressed an appeal to human rights organizations on January 5th:

«The Israeli campaign of torture and siege continues against the steadfast Palestinian detainees in the Zionist occupation's prisons. These detainees are experiencing very difficult and harsh conditions, being continuously confronted by the prison administration and interrogation officers. The latter have reactivated the most violent, inhumane methods of torturing political prisoners...including the following:

1. continuing a single interrogation ses-

sion for 15-20 hours to exhaust the detainee, mentally and physically;

2. preventing the detainee from eating for several days;

3. confining the detainee in the toilet for several days;

4. threatening the detainee with the Tamir law and a harsh sentence if he does not cooperate...

5. Insulting and spitting on the detainee...

6. Bringing the detainee's wife or mother and threatening to rape her; arresting the detainee's father;

7. confining the detainee in the place called «the closet» with room for one person to stand only;

8. forcing the detainee to sit on a chair with a back at a 45 degree angle to pressure the stomach and the backbone.

«In addition, the Palestinians live in very difficult conditions that do not meet the minimum needs of their existence. A look at the list of the detainees' complaints and demands shows that the occupation forces are determined to

Palestinian mothers protest their sons' detention conditions.

