

isolation and transferring prisoners to other prisons and threatening to continue this if we continue our strike threats. The administration varies its treatment of the different sections, tightening pressures and applying special restrictions on the section for receiving new detainees. The amount and quality of food is deteriorating to the bottom level.

«We are accustomed to this policy and we will not give in. We will not waste our energy by reacting spontaneously. Rather we will follow a careful plan in order to respond with the best tactics...»

The letter chronicles how the prisoners' attempts to have their conditions improved have been met by obstinacy on the part of the prison administration. For example, the administration refused the demand for the prisoners to move between different sections. The administrator insisted that anyone wishing to do so must meet with him personally. The detainees pointed to the danger involved in this condition. The administrator also refused to make changes in the transferal policy, or to lift the cultural blockade imposed on the prisoners.

Administrative detainees strike

A new aspect was added to the struggle in Jnaid this autumn with the presence of 44 of those administratively detained under the Zionist iron fist policy. Another 35 were put in Bir Sheba prison. According to the statement of the detainees' lawyer in October, the 35 are all held in one room with only 20 beds and no space for moving. Medical care is non-existent and many of the detainees had contracted illnesses. The detainees charge that food is deliberately ill-prepared.

In mid-October, the administrative detainees in Jnaid went on hunger strike against their illegal detention. The Zionist policy of transferring some of the strikers backfired, because the strike thus spread to Bir Sheba as well. On October 16th, all the political prisoners staged a one-day hunger strike in solidarity with the administratively detained. The Jnaid and Bir Sheba strikes were eventually suspended due to the deteriorating health of some of the prisoners who had been ill before the strike.

Jenin

The prisoners in Jenin are facing grossly deteriorating conditions. The list of their demands gives a comprehensive

picture of how the prison administration has been manipulating living conditions in the campaign to break the prisoners' humanity and will to struggle. For reasons of space, we include only a portion of their demands below:

- To solve the water problem which started six months ago, and has many negative effects on the prisoners' health. Skin and stomach diseases are spreading and dozens of prisoners are in quarantine. In the words of the prisoners, «The shortage of hot, cold and bath water is part of the policy of suppression and slow death being practiced by the Israeli authorities.

- To open the cell doors to allow movement - «We spend 12 consecutive hours locked in our cells. We are prohibited from walks as a collective punishment...»

- To allow the opening of windows for fresh air and sunlight, and removing asbestos from the windows as it causes cancer.

- To repair sinks and install adequate sinks for washing.

- To improve the food - «Our ration of food is being stolen by the administration and mixed with the police rations...»

- To allow visits among the sections which are now prohibited for 'security reasons' or decided according to the whim of the officers.

- To open the outer court as an exercise yard because the existing one is not adequate for movement or sports -

- «Each prisoner has only 50 cm. in which to walk. In a space of 80 meters square, 125 militants must walk.»

- To remove the screen during family visits; extend the visiting time to one

hour and a half monthly; provide places of rest, drinking water and bathrooms for visiting relatives.

- To allow newspapers, cultural magazines, copy books and drawing materials.

- To provide one table and two chairs for every room.

- To allow the prisoners to buy additional items in the canteen or through their families.

- To stop the policy of individual and collective punishment such as prohibiting exercise and family visits.

- To stop the brutality of the officers in the prison and during transfers.

- To end overcrowding.

- To provide medical care.

Gaza

Conditions in the jail at the military government's headquarters in Gaza are so scandalous as to have been admitted by the authorities. In October, Police Minister Haim Bar Lev visited this prison and considered the early release of «criminals» to ease the overcrowding and allow for the detention of the recently arrested. «The density in this prison is 1.8 square meters per prisoner, as compared to between 2.8 and 3.5 square meters in Israeli jails. Israeli jails are regarded as overcrowded...(In one instance) 60 to 80 detainees were arrested in one night, and kept in a cell so small there was only standing room...Some cells lack showers and toilets and, because regulations say that wardens may not open cell doors at night, the inmates use pails in their rooms...» (*Jerusalem Post*, October 22, 1985). ●

Occupied Palestine

1985

The Kuwaiti newspaper «Al Qabas» printed the following chronology of events in occupied Palestine in 1985.

The Israeli authorities have continued their policy in the occupied Arab land, working to advance their land confiscation and settlement program and executing a campaign of terror and deportation. The Palestinians have confronted these measures, resisting and rising up. The following are the most significant events of 1985 in this respect:

Resisting occupation

Jan. 1: Mass demonstrations throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the 20th anniversary of the start of the Palestinian revolution.

Jan. 3: Hunger strike by women detainees in Ramallah prison.

Jan. 11: Duheisha camp confronts the occupation forces and village league. ►