

Martyrs' Day

Comrade Habash Exposes the Dangers of Jordan's Plan

On March 7th, hundreds of people convened for a mass rally sponsored by the PFLP in Yarmouk camp, to commemorate Martyrs' Day. PFLP Secretary General George Habash focused his speech on analyzing King Hussein's February 19th speech, and how the Palestinian revolution should confront the threat it represents.

Comrades, on March 9th, 1973, our comrade and hero Guevara Gaza was martyred in a battle with the Zionist enemy forces. In the same battle, two other comrades, Abdel Hadi Hayik and Kamal al Amasi were martyred. It was then that the Zionist enemy admitted that while it ruled the Gaza Strip during the day, it had to withdraw and leave the Strip to the fedayeen at night. In view of the significance of Guevara Gaza's experience in the Strip, the PFLP leadership designated March 9th as Martyrs Day. On this day, we remember Ghassan Kanafani, Wadia Haddad, Abu Amal, Taghrid Batmeh and all the others who were martyred under the banner of the PFLP and the PLO...for the Palestinian cause. We honor their martyrdom so that we and our children after us will know that those who die for freedom and the homeland will always have an esteemed place in our hearts and in the pages of history...We will always remain loyal to this heritage.

Due to our feeling of responsibility towards our martyrs, we believe that the continuation of the revolution requires clear political vision. This is especially important now due to the difficult phase our revolution is experiencing. The current political

moment requires a sound, scientific understanding from which emerges the program and plans, and in turn, serious efforts to protect the revolution and carry it to victory.

The revolution entered a new phase after the 1982 Zionist invasion of Lebanon, and after the revolution was forced to lose its main base in Beirut. We began to witness the deterioration of the right-wing leadership of the PLO, due to its considering an imperialist-reactionary settlement of the Palestinian cause. Instead of drawing on the experience of the heroic defense of besieged Beirut to reinforce our strength; instead of relying on this steadfastness to throw condemnation in the face of the reactionary forces for their feebleness and hesitancy during our fight, the right-wing leadership began solidifying relations with these regimes. It hoped to benefit from their influence with the US to find a solution for the Palestinian cause.

We have continuously articulated our stand on this phase...Therefore, I can concentrate on the current political moment which has two headings: First, the Jordanian regime's plans to swallow the PLO. Second, the Zionist plans to liquidate the PLO once and for all. The deterioration of the rightist

There were many spontaneous responses during Comrade Habash's speech. People improvised verses, including the following:

*Not every man is a man
Not all words are worth hearing
If Hussein is a man
Let him respond to your words.*

