

On February 14th, a resident of Hebron was shot in the head by an Israeli policeman who claimed it had been an accident. The Palestinian later died from the injury he sustained.

On March 3rd, Zionist soldiers shot at demonstrators in Balata camp, killing a youth.

## Fightback

### Prison strike

On February 15th, Palestinian detainees in Bir Sabi prison declared an open-ended strike to protest harsh conditions which are well below the minimum specified for political prisoners in the Geneva Convention. Of special note is the situation of 27 prisoners who were transferred to Bir Sabi prison from Jnaid and Jenin prisons, as a punishment. The prison authorities suspected them of leading the hunger strike that spread throughout the prisons in occupied Palestine in December.

The 27 are kept in very crowded cells; there are 14 beds in cells designed for only seven beds. These prisoners receive no reading material except for a copy of the *Jerusalem Post* every ten days for which they must pay. Despite the prison's desert location, they are

only allowed an average of one and a half showers weekly. There is only one working toilet. Most of the prisoners are forced to wear their regular shoes constantly in the cell, for only four pairs of house slippers are provided for all 27. Health care is extremely bad. The prisoners sent a letter to the prison administration and minister of police, demanding improvement of these conditions.

In another section of the prison, 55 detainees await trial under conditions no better than those of the 27. For example, they are forced to stand for roll call while eating - an obvious harassment.

### Demonstration in Beit Hanina

Scores of progressive Israeli Jews and a large number of Palestinians demonstrated in front of the office of the central region military headquarters in Beit Hanina, near Jerusalem, on February 1st. The demonstration was organized by the Committee to Confront the Iron Fist, to protest the deportation and administrative detention of Palestinian citizens. The progressive Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer described the present iron fist policy as the most severe policy followed by the Israeli authorities since 1967: «This policy was not practiced even under the Likud rule. This

cancels the illusion of the lenient policy of the Labor government.»

### Lift the iron fist from the camps!

On February 24th, Palestinian residents of Balata camp, near Nablus, traveled to Jerusalem to speak out at a press conference organized by the Committee to Confront the Iron Fist. They called for an end to the ongoing house searches and arrests in Balata. Over 250 people, mainly youth, have been arrested from Balata camp since November. Most of the youth are detained in Al Faraa which has become notorious as a torture center. Testifying at the press conference, one youth, who had recently been released, described how he was beaten, tortured and humiliated by the Zionist forces. Another speaker, a Palestinian lawyer, pointed out that while a Jewish citizen of the Zionist state can only be arrested at the age of 16, Israeli law permits the arrest of Palestinians at the age of 12.

Duheisha camp, near Bethlehem, has also been heavily targeted by the iron fist. Again, youth are specially hard hit. On the night of January 28-9, the Israeli occupation forces detained six residents of the camp; four of them were 14 years old, and two were 15. ●

Jerusalem: Palestinian woman confronted by occupation troops.

