

pressure of popular protest, only superficial changes were made. Although it was boasted that works by Palestinian national poets were included, they were all about love and courtship, written in the early stages of the poets' careers. Everything on Palestinian culture or history was completely excluded. Furthermore, all school programs and projects specific to Palestinians are submitted for censorship not only to the Zionist Ministry of Education, but to the Ministry of Defence as well. There are textbooks dating back 20 years, while some schools use Arabic grammar books printed 75 years ago. The deliberate gross neglect is based on a policy of misinforming the new generation of Palestinians growing up under occupation. Another aspect is the historical falsification in new books introduced into the schools. Safad, in an eighth grade geography book is called 'Zfat'; Ibn Amer plain is called 'Emeq Yisrael' and Wadi al Hawarish is called 'Emeq Haifa', in addition to insinuations that Palestine was uninhabited before Jewish immigration.

All the above factors aim at smothering anything Palestinian, and at minimizing and eventually eliminating Palestinian participation in higher education institutions. At present Palestinians comprise less than 10% of the overall student body in universities. Out of a total of 6000 university lecturers, only 6 are Palestinian Arabs. The aim is obvious — to eliminate Palestinian competition from the job market and leave unchallenged the economic and cultural hegemony of the Zionist entity.

Strangling culture

Palestinian culture, the mark of Palestinian national identity, has always been a thorn in the Zionists' side. Cultural expression is most often met with fascist measures of destruction and impediment. School books cover the culture of all peoples in the world except that of the Palestinian people. To hold national festivals or rallies means a constant struggle with the Zionist authorities over otherwise trivial formalities like obtaining permits to set up temporary structures. Even when permits are procured, the Zionists have been known to cancel permission or look the other way when incidents of vandalism by Zionist settlers occur. In one instance, a settler tore up a painting by a Palestinian artist because it enraged him to see the colors of the Palestinian flag being used in the picture!

Seventy percent of the Palestinian towns and villages have no cultural centres or youth centres. The 38 that do exist were allocated only two-thirds the budget given to one Jewish youth centre.

All attempts to establish a professional Palestinian theatre have failed. Small theatre groups do perform, but any attempt to develop or expand are always nipped in the bud. Many groups receiving invitations to perform abroad are denied the opportunity to travel because the authorities prohibit them.

The international conference held by UNESCO, devoted to the discussion of Palestinian education, did not exaggerate when it described the actions of the Zionist entity as a flagrant violation of international law and human rights.

Operation Terror

1986 Israeli Invasion of Lebanon

On Monday, February 17th, Lebanese patriots ambushed a joint Israeli-South Lebanon Army motorized patrol, killing two SLA men and capturing two Israeli soldiers. The attack occurred near Beit Yanoun on the northern edge of the 'security zone' the Israeli occupiers have imposed in South Lebanon. Almost immediately, the Zionist army reinvaded Lebanon.

Three columns of over 1,000 mechanized infantry and air-borne troops crossed the 'security zone' to storm seven villages and arrest about thirty persons. Israeli planes swooped over all parts of Lebanon, breaking the sound barrier to increase the atmosphere of terror. Each ensuing day brought new reinforcements to the Zionist invaders, swelling their ranks to 1,500.

The Israeli-occupied portion of Lebanon was expanded by almost 200 square kilometers, in addition to the permanently occupied 'security zone'. In the newly reoccupied area, over twenty villages were besieged and repeatedly invaded by paratroopers dropping from helicopters and tank-borne troops. An average of 500 southerners were detained for questioning each day. By



the time the Zionists decided to halt the operation on Saturday, February 22nd, 130 Lebanese citizens were still being detained. According to confirmed reports, 17 had been killed and 22 injured, but the actual casualty toll may be much higher.

Fierce resistance

The first day of the invasion, Israeli planes dropped leaflets over southern villages, promising not to enact collective punishment. Besides being a lie, this was based on the Zionists' vain hope that the population would acquiesce and even cooperate in the attempt to find the captured soldiers. Quite the opposite occurred. From the first day, the invaders met stiff resistance, dodging patriots' bullets as they moved from village to village. On February 18th, an Israeli corporal was killed when nationalist forces fired on an Israeli gunboat off the coast of Tyre. The next day, Israeli soldiers were engaged in clashes with anti-occupation resisters, and two SLA men were killed by RPGs near Harris. On February 20th, there were more clashes, and an Israeli soldier was killed in an ambush near Srafa.

Search and destroy

The Zionist soldiers' search for their captured colleagues became a new exercise in human rights violations. Frustrated by lack of quick success, they