

View from the Mountain

A member of the staff of «Democratic Palestine» spent time in PFLP military bases located in the mountains of Lebanon, southeast of Beirut, and conducted the following interviews with the freedom fighters.



The Mountain, as it is called by people in Lebanon, is a special area for revolutionaries. There Palestinian fighters, alongside the fighters of the Lebanese national movement, face the fascist forces of Gemayel's Lebanese Army and Geagea's Lebanese Forces. The PFLP has several bases in frontline positions in the mountains. Two are less than 50 meters from the fascist lines, overlooking Souq al Gharb, stronghold of Gemayel's army.

Reaching some of these bases is an adventure in itself. At night, you drive without headlights to avoid attracting sniper fire. In the daytime, you hear the whistle of snipers' bullets. The fighters live in houses that have been fortified to stand up to bombardment, and are connected by tunnels and trenches. Inside, there are metal beds, a few tables with kerosene lamps and oil heaters. A Klashnikov (AK47) hangs at each bed; there are RPGs in the corner. On the wall are posters of martyred comrades from various organizations, pictures of Comrade

George Habash, of Lenin and of Che. The fighters immediately invite you to tea which they call the wine of revolutionaries. Over tea, the interview starts. Following are interviews with comrades on seven different bases in the mountains.

What are the comrades' duties on the base?

Adonees: We have defense duties - making fortifications and guarding; combat duties using different weapons; cleaning duties to keep our base and weapons clean; educational and political duties; and training and weapon review.

What is your daily schedule?

Salameh: The situation varies according to the security conditions (degree of engagement with the enemy) and the weather. We wake up at about 7 a.m., clean the base and have breakfast, while listening to the radio to hear the latest news.