

Armed Struggle in Occupied Palestine

This spring, on the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the 1936-39 revolt in Palestine, Palestinian freedom fighters continue to escalate armed attacks against the Zionist occupation forces.

On the night of April 15, 1936, three Arab militants attacked a Zionist convoy near Nablus, killing two Zionists and wounding a third. It was later known that the three were from the secret revolutionary cells formed by Ez Al Din Al Qassam and led by Sheikh Farhan Al Saadi, who was in his eighties. The next day, Zionist settlers killed two Palestinian citizens, and tension mounted throughout the country. On the morning of April 20th, the city of Jaffa woke up to a general strike. In the following days, this spread throughout Palestine to become the beginning of the 1936-39 Palestinian revolt. The general strike lasted six months, and was accompanied by other forms of mass resistance and widespread armed action which continued until 1939, against the Zionist settlers and British colonialists.

The 1936-39 revolt and its lessons rank high among the proud traditions of Palestinian national struggle, which are still very much alive and being daily developed by our masses under occupation. A new escalation in military operations was noted this year, just after King Hussein's speech which attempted to undermine the Palestinian people's unity and sole representation. According to Israeli sources, quoted in early March, there were 76 acts of resistance in the two weeks following this speech, as compared to 43 in the two preceding weeks. This shows that the Palestinian masses still place their faith in continuing the revolution, not in joint maneuvers with reactionary regimes.

March 1986

In March, military operations against the Zionist occupiers averaged more than one a day. Two hand grenade attacks on Israeli soldiers, and eight explosions against targets such as settlements, factories and military posts, were reported in the part of Palestine occupied in 1948. On March 24th, a Zionist soldier was stabbed near Nazareth and dispossessed of his Uzi machine gun. On March 6th, two Israeli intelligence officers were stabbed to death, one in Bir Sabe (South Palestine) and the other in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem was the site of other daring attacks. On March 7th, an American Zionist was seriously wounded by gunfire. The next day, an Israeli soldier was stabbed and seriously wounded. On March 18th, a Mossad agent was killed and three others wounded by a remote control bomb.

On March 2nd, a Zionist soldier was killed and four others wounded in two separate attacks in the occupied Gaza Strip. On March 5th, Palestinian freedom fighters successfully detonated a remote control explosion, the first in the Strip, against a motorized Zionist patrol. On March 10th, an Israeli soldier was wounded in a clash between a group of Palestinian militants and a Zionist military patrol in the Strip. There were moreover numerous firebombs and stones thrown against the occupiers in various parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

March 30th, the Day of the Land, witnessed numerous military operations and acts of mass resistance. A car bomb exploded at the entrance of an Israeli intelligence office in French Hill, Jerusalem, destroying cars and damaging buildings. In Jericho, a mine exploded under an Israeli military truck, causing casualties among the soldiers riding in it; another military truck was attacked with firebombs, and a patrol car came under heavy machine gun fire. In Jenin, a firebomb was hurled at a Zionist military truck. Near Bethlehem, residents of Duheisha camp attacked an Israeli military vehicle with stones, injuring the driver.

April 1986

On April 1st, two bus stations were hit by bombs in Jerusalem. This brings to 29 the number of bus stations that have been burned or otherwise destroyed in the last few months.

The PFLP announced three successful operations in early April: The unit of the martyr, Ghassan Kanafani, attacked a Zionist military convoy with firebombs in Jerusalem; ten soldiers were injured, three of them seriously. Another attack was launched against a

Zionist patrol in Gaza, wounding several soldiers. In Nablus, the unit of the martyr, Samir Al Dubbi, attacked a Zionist patrol with bombs and machine guns, causing extensive casualties among the soldiers.

A Zionist military spokesman noted that 14 attacks had been carried out in the Gaza Strip in late March and early April, including the stabbing of settlers, remote control explosives, hand grenade attacks and stone-throwing. In April, in the Strip, hand grenades were thrown at Zionist patrol cars, and at the Gaza police station. Firebombs were thrown at military jeeps near Shatti camp, and many Zionist vehicles were attacked by stone-throwers. Freedom fighters also carried out attacks near Nseirat camp and near the theology college in Gaza.

In the occupied West Bank, four hand grenade attacks were launched at military vehicles, north of Jerusalem, in the first half of April. There were two firebomb attacks on the Coca Cola factory in the same area. In mid-April, the driver of a bus carrying Zionist settlers was shot dead and the bus was attacked with firebombs. In Khalil, an Israeli bus was destroyed by fire, and a settler from Kiryat Arba was stabbed. There were three firebomb attacks on police cars near Qalandia camp, north of Jerusalem. There was a hand grenade attack on a military car near Nablus, and a clash between freedom fighters and Zionist soldiers near Balata camp in the same area.

In the part of Palestine occupied in 1948, the inspector general of the Zionist police said during a press conference that an increasing number of Palestinians within the 'green line', especially in the Galilee and Triangle, were coming into possession of ammunition and weapons. He said, «There is no need for the Palestinian organizations to smuggle in weapons from outside...(when) they can obtain them from soldiers or Israeli arsenals.» The escalation of military operations was also reflected in Police Minister Haim Bar Lev's words, that alert had been declared 86,000 times during 1985.

On April 8th, two bombs exploded, one in Afula, the other in Haifa; Zionist radio admitted several casualties. A Zionist patrol car was attacked by firebomb near Tireh, and another near Kafr Qasim, northeast of Tel Aviv. Moreover, scores of Katyusha rockets were fired on Zionist settlements from the southern border of Lebanon.