

PNSF Mass Rally

Day of the Land



The Palestine National Salvation Front convened a mass rally in Yarmouk camp, outside Damascus, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Day of the Land. The first speaker was Dr. Alaidin Abdin, member of the Central Committee of the Arab Socialist Baath Party. Next spoke Rashad Abu Shawwer of the Palestinian Writers and Journalists Union. The Salvation Front's speech, delivered by Dr. George Habash, General Secretary of the PFLP, is printed below.

In these days, ten years ago, the land of Palestine exploded in a stormy uprising, confronting occupation. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian citizens in the land that was occupied in 1948, rose up on the morning of March 30, 1976. They said *no* to the Zionist plans to seize Palestinian land. They said a loud, daring *no* to the conspiracy of containing and cancelling their Palestinian national identity. They emphatically declared that they are an inseparable part of the Palestinian people. It was the same with our people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, despite the occupation's might and all the attempts to impose the colonialist Israeli identity...Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian citizens answered the call of the mayors and local councils to hold a general strike and demonstrate on March 30, 1976. They marched in the streets of Nazareth, Taibeh, Sakhnin, the villages of the Galilee and Triangle, and in all the West Bank and Gaza cities, towns and camps. They embodied the solid unity of the Palestinian people, wherever they may be, under the banner of the PLO, leader of our people's struggle and their sole, legitimate representative.

I need not speak at length about the Day of the Land, for it has been emblazoned in the minds of every Palestinian man, woman and child. It is the story of fierce struggle to defend Palestinian land...It is the story of the martyrs who confronted the most powerful military force in the region with their bare hands...Rather, I will highlight the lessons of that heroic confrontation...to learn from them in our future struggle:

First lesson: Adherence to the land

The Palestinian people adhere to their land and will spare no effort to defend it...It is they who are most concerned about the land and cause, for it is theirs. It is they, along with the Arab

masses, who have given their lives to liberate the land from the taint of the unjust Zionist occupation. Those who have given martyrs don't need lectures about the land and how to save it, from those who have squandered this land and sold it cheaply. Yet we see that King Hussein and his like are not ashamed to cry crocodile tears over the land and the people.

Second lesson: Unity

The Palestinian people are all one people and allow of no division. This has been seen at many turning points in the history of our cause and revolution. On the Day of the Land, our people again proved the depth of their national unity and genuineness. The mass uprising in 1948 occupied Palestine was accompanied by similar uprisings in Gaza and the West Bank...Our people in the camps in exile were mobilized in solidarity, despite the regimes and their oppression. Of course, this mass uprising would not have assumed such proportions were it not for the successes achieved by the PLO.

Third lesson: Two bases

The Day of the Land uprising materially stressed that the contemporary Palestinian revolution relies on two essential, complementary bases. The first is the struggle of our people in the occupied homeland and their steadfastness against the Zionist enemy's policies of land seizure, settlement-building, expulsion, 'civil' administration and 'autonomy'. The second is the struggle of our people outside, the role of the Palestinian revolution in terms of armed, political and mass struggle.

Experience has shown the interrelation between these two bases and the extent to which they influence one another. Without the PLO's achievements on the Arab and international