



Have the Palestinian organizations helped ease socio-economic problems?

We didn't see that yet. I am speaking specifically of the Palestinian National Fund, which has the money of the Palestinian people, but only provided four million Lebanese pounds. This didn't cover one percent of the need. Here we have refugees from camps that were wiped out. We asked all parties to help build housing. We asked the Palestinian National Fund with no reply. We asked the Palestine National Salvation Front, and they said wait until after the rebuilding of Sabra and Shatila. There is no serious planning. We need projects. There are projects carried out by the PFLP and the Palestinian Workers Union, but these are not enough.

There are two reasons for this situation. The first is the Palestinian division. One side has the money and that is Arafat. He wants our people to agree with his policy of capitulation before releasing the funds. Secondly, Arafat gives money according to certain lists, without the recipients working. This is positive in terms of solving immediate economic problems, but it tends to make our people lazy and unproductive. The alternative is to build productive projects. Our people fought the Israeli army without anything in return. They don't want money without producing anything. We expect our leadership to have productive plans.

What about the relations between the camp and the people of Sidon?

After the Zionist invasion and the presence of the Lebanese Front fascists in 1982, relations improved dramatically between the people of the camp and of Sidon. This was especially so with the policy initiated by the Palestine National Salvation Front, to support and not control the Lebanese national movement. The Popular Nasserite Organization, led by the militant comrade Mustafa Saad, played a special role in developing the excellent relations we have today.

How does the current war between the Zionist-backed South Lebanon Army and the Lebanese nationalist-Palestinian forces, affect the camp?

The war in South Lebanon is part of the overall situation in Lebanon. Whenever the nationalist side makes gains, we see the interference of 'Israel' and the US. We participate in the conflict and fight the fascists.

How did the masses react to the leaflets dropped by the Zionists, warning against cooperation with the revolution, after the bombing of the camps?

We are used to receiving blows from the Zionist enemy. The Zionist policy is to create a gap between the Palestinian people and the revolution. This is known. This psychological warfare has no effects on our people. As long as we carry guns, 'Israel' will attack, so that will continue because we cannot make peace with the enemy. Our duty is to answer by building more shelters for the masses. That would make a million Israeli threats worthless.

Would you comment on the new directive forbidding UNRWA employees from expressing their political views?

UNRWA is acting like a security agency. Anybody who talks about nationalist issues is thrown out of work. The Zionists fight us with air raids. UNRWA fights us with our bread. This is part of their policy of trying to destroy our identity. We have a meeting tomorrow about this very issue. UNRWA's rules and regulations permit political work, so we are going to fight those responsible for this new policy.

How did people react to Hussein's speech?

All our people know that Hussein wants to cancel the role of the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinians. He is pressuring Arafat even if Arafat agrees to his plans. People refuse that, even those who get salaries from Arafat.

Women's Work

Amal, head of the Palestinian Women's Organization in the Saida area.

Comrade Amal is 28 years old and has two children. She has been in the revolution for ten years, working with women in the camps.

What is the nature of your work?

The Palestinian Women's Organization is a fraternal organization of the PFLP. Our work is to solve the problems of women in the camps and to educate them in general and politically. Palestinian women suffer terribly because of the conditions of life in the camps. These conditions worsened after the 1982 Israeli invasion and the imprisonment of most of the men in Ansar concentration camp. In that difficult period, women had to work directly against the occupation; it was easier for them to move than for men. Women had a big role in the ►