

will only enjoy full rights when the territories are annexed (*Al Hamishmar*, January 24, 1985).

A few statistics give a picture of the effects of the Israeli economic crisis on the West Bank in terms of the labor force. A study by the ILO in the spring of 1985 indicated a 30-40% unemployment rate. A survey by the Progressive Workers Bloc in early 1985 showed that wages had declined by 30% since October 1984. The Zionist claims about higher pay in 'Israel' fail to take into account a series of other variables which affect the standard of living. For example, in periods when the Israeli government attempts to doctor the economic crisis by constant devaluation of the shekel, the West Bank worker must still pay rent and other expenses in Jordanian dinars - a very stable currency. In the period from 1983 until April 1985, this meant roughly halving the wages of many workers in the occupied territories (*Al Fajr*, May 24, 1985).

In an article entitled «Palestinian Women Workers in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip», *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Winter 1985, Susan Rockwell comments on the crisis's effects on Gaza workers: «While wage labor in Israel has both reduced unemployment in Gaza to about one percent and raised living standards, these short-term gains have been eroded by the importation of Israeli inflation and the consistent devaluation of the Israeli shekel. Living standards in the occupied territories, for example, have not risen as fast as they have done in Jordan. Israel's soaring inflation affects the Arab population of the occupied territories much more than it does Israelis due to the lack of an equivalent system of compensation to low-income families through national insurance.»

FURTHER MARGINALIZATION

One might think that less Palestinians from the occupied territories find work in 'Israel' now, due to the Israeli need to cut unemployment among Jewish citizens. This is not the case however, because Palestinians perform low-level jobs now distained by Jewish workers. Instead there has been a rise in illegal workers from the territories, i.e., further marginalization of their status. Referring to the early eighties, the *Jerusalem Post*, January 7, 1986, noted: «... while the number at work under the Employment Service's auspices has indeed fallen by more than 10,000, the total number of residents of the territories employed in Israel has grown by 15,000. Market forces have thus been free to drive up 'illegal' employment, which according to official statistics stands at more than half the total.»

In January 1985, a new regulation went into effect whereby Palestinian

workers from the 1947 occupied territories need a special permit to work in 'Israel', on the order of the Employment and Defense Ministries. (Previously this permit was only needed for those who stayed overnight.) Clearly this was intended to discipline Palestinian workers who can now be arrested for lacking a permit, rather than to stop illegal employment. Six months later, the Knesset Interior Committee was presented with estimates that 40-50,000

Palestinians from the occupied territories sleep in Tel Aviv nightly without work permits and in unsanitary conditions. (The latter is to put it mildly - employers often lock 'illegal' workers in sheds for the night). Rather than reducing the employment of slave labor from the territories, in order to limit unemployment among Jews, the tendency is to further marginalize the Palestinian workers.

Zionist Occupation Policy



Palestinian home demolished by the Israeli occupation forces

Since the Zionist occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in June of 1967, the Israeli forces have destroyed 15,365 homes, arrested 300,000 Palestinians and imprisoned 4,950.

The Jordanian Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs has done a statistical study that was published on May 29th in the Jordanian daily *Saut Al Shaab*. The study said that the biggest number of expulsions of Palestinians since 1972 occurred last year. At the same time there were more and more repressive measures, such as town arrests, etc. The study also pointed out that deportees consisted of individuals and groups, such as the whole Nuseirat clan (250 people) that was expelled to Jordan.

Concerning Arab prisoners in 'Israel', the study showed that 4,950 of them were sentenced for legal reasons and 3,500 for security reasons. Last year seven prisoners were killed, three died of illness, and one hundred and forty are in solitary confinement and under strict supervision.

The study also noted that 300,000 Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip were arrested and imprisoned last year. 1,000 out of 3,500 prisoners are sentenced to twenty years or more. The study also mentioned that the administrative detentions practiced by the Israelis are a violation of the legal prin-

ciple that requires a fair trial before punishment.

It was also mentioned in the study that the Zionist authorities have blown up a total of 1,420 homes since 1967 in the West Bank, and 13,945 homes in the Gaza Strip in the early seventies, as part of their plan to eliminate the refugee camps.

IRON FIST

The Kuwaiti paper *Al Qabas* published that in a period of six months, the Zionist authorities had expelled 50 Palestinians. Three hundred others were put under administrative detention for six months without any reason other than the authorities' fear that they might conduct violent acts in the future. The same source recently published a special report from the West Bank. The report said that during the same period, the Zionist authorities had demolished over 10,000 Palestinian homes in the Nablus, Bethlehem, Hebron (Al Khalil) and Gaza districts. In addition, the authorities sealed over 50 homes in different camps. Over a hundred homes were evacuated and confiscated for the benefit of settlers. 20,000 dunums of land were confiscated in the districts of Bethlehem, Nablus, Jericho and Khan Yunis.