



Bir Zeit students protest administrative detention.

diture of any funds, including our salaries, in an attempt to push us to give up."

Hebron trade unions issued statements on May 1st dealing with the situation of the Palestinian working class. The statements described the workers' situation as highly unstable-they are subject to low wages, mass lay-offs, rapidly increasing unemployment and exploitation. The trade unions called for designating May 1st as the international day against exploitation. Signatories to the statement included the unions for tailors, construction workers, public service employees and public institution workers.

The Progressive Front for Trade Union Action organized a mass festival in Al Hakawati Theater in Jerusalem. The main speech emphasized the necessity of trade union unity in occupied Palestine on a national basis, untouched by opportunism and blackmail. The division in the trade union movement was condemned, for this aggravates the movement's crisis. The right-wing leadership was held responsible for the deteriorating political situation and the reactionary regimes' intervention in Palestinian internal affairs. The US aggression on Libya was roundly condemned. In attendance at the festival were delegates from the Sons of the Village movement in 1948 occupied Palestine, and from the Golan Heights.

Also commemorating May 1st were the Union of Public Institution Workers in Bethlehem, Restaurant and Coffee Shop Workers in Jenin, and Al Ahlee Hospital Employees' Committee in Gaza.

The Federation of Palestinian Trade Unions in the Gaza Strip was prohibited from holding a celebration or issuing a publication, despite the fact that it had submitted a request to the occupation authorities on April 18th to obtain a permit.

In the part of Palestine occupied in 1948, all trade union branches called for transforming the entire month of March this year into a season of political, social, cultural and educational festivals in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Day of the Land, and for escalating the struggle against racism.

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

The situation of the women's movement in occupied Palestine does not differ from that of other mass organizations in terms of the constant pressure and repression exerted by the Zionist occupation authorities to limit its activities. A current example is the arrest and trial of Yusra Barbari, president of the Women's Union in Gaza. She was accused of rendering public services without a permit. The services she had rendered were two courses in the English language and a sewing course! Despite such harassment, however, there were many women's activities in the past period. The celebration of Women's International Day became a forum for campaigning against the Jordanian regime's anti-Palestinian policies.

UNION OF PALESTINIAN WOMEN'S COMMITTEES

Early in the year, the Palestinian Women's Committees held their sixth annual bazaar in Jerusalem. The opening night, there was a meeting where the main speech stressed the importance of mobilizing Palestinian women in the organizational, political, economic and social fields, by recruiting them into the 41 branches of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The speech also highlighted the need for giving more attention to Palestinian children by enrolling them in the union's 15 kindergartens.

Other activities of the Palestinian Women's Committees included medical days, arranged in coordination with the Popular Committee for Health Services and Care, where many people were treated and given free medicine, in most cities and villages of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On March 6th, the union brought out a special issue of its publication entitled *The Struggle of Working Women*, devoted to its activities of the foregoing year and a communiqué condemning King Hussein's February speech. On the International Day of Women, the union issued statements. Union members visited the families of martyrs and prisoners. The union's main celebration was held in Al Hakawati Theater in Jerusalem. Folklore groups performed, and there was a speech on the theme of cancelling the Amman accord and the Cairo declaration (about ending armed struggle), as prerequisites for restoring the PLO's unity. The union also celebrated the International Day of Women at Bethlehem University and at Bir Zeit University in cooperation with the Student Action Front. It sponsored a celebration in Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip, where there was a speech and showing of the film "With My Own Eyes", based on Felicia Langer's book about torture in Israeli prisons.

The union organized many outings to different areas of occupied Palestine in order to acquaint women with the geography of their homeland. The Women's Committee in Duheisheh camp in the West Bank arranged a trip to Acca and Haifa, and participated in a trip to the Golan Heights.

In late March, a delegation from the union and the Progressive Women's Union visited Majdel Shams in the Golan Heights, delivering a message of solidarity with the people there. The union also sponsored a successful market in Bir Zeit's athletic club, in cooperation with the club.

OVERALL ACTIVITIES

All four major women's organizations in the occupied territories issued statements against King Hussein's February speech. In their statements, the Union of Women's Committees for Social Work, the Union of Women's Work Committees, the Working Women's Union, and the Union for Palestinian