

Women's Committees stressed adherence to the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

International Women's Day was celebrated by all. The Union for Women's Committees for Social Work celebrated in Al Nuzha Theater in Jerusalem. The Women's Work Committee held their celebration during their fourth congress; at their celebration in Jerusalem, the main speech demanded that the PLO leadership cancel the Amman accord in order to begin a national dialogue. The Working Women's Committees had many celebrations and seminars. In the Gaza Strip, the Al Ahlee Hospital Employees' Committee celebrated with a meeting where the main speech focused on the Palestinian women's role in the national struggle. In 1948 occupied Palestine, the Arab Women's Committee organized a trip to Tiberias; 200 women from Acca, Lydda and the Galilee participated. In Nazareth, hundreds of women demonstrated on International Women's Day.

In Nablus, the Women's Work Committee, the Palestinian Women's Committee and the Working Women's Committee joined forces in solidarity with political prisoners. A memorandum signed by the families of prisoners was sent to the International Red Cross, protesting the inhuman conditions in the prisons and condemning the savage practices against the prisoners. Special attention was drawn to the transfer of many prisoners to Atlit Center, notorious as one of the worst prisons. Also noted was the situation in Bir Saba' (Beer Sheba) prison where the prisoners are grossly maltreated, food is scarce and bad, the prison is overcrowded, and there is no medical care.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

In addition to struggling for special student concerns, Palestinian students expressed their position on central political issues, as well as arranging cultural activities. After King Hussein's February speech, the various student blocs issued statements and held seminars in the universities and institutes. The Student Action Front asserted that this speech aimed to exert more pressure on the right-wing leadership to completely submit to the US conditions. It exposed King Hussein's maneuvers aimed at representing the Palestinians, and called for all nationalist forces to unite in opposing the PLO leadership's deviating trend. The Progressive Bloc confirmed the importance of national unity, adhering to the PLO and canceling the Amman accord.

BIR ZEIT

In solidarity with the university employees' union, the student movement issued a statement on January 28th, demanding cancellation of the administration's decision to terminate the contracts of professors and other employees - a decision which the administration claims is due to the university's financial crisis. The statement called on all national forces and institutions to intervene immediately to pressure the administration to cancel this decision. The student movement joined in the strike which began January 27th, and asserted that it should continue until the demands were met (for cancelling the termination decision).

The student movement is also struggling with the administration because of a huge tuition increase. A student conference was held in which the four student blocs participated (the Student Action Front, the Social Youth Bloc, the Students Progressive Bloc and the Student Unity Bloc). After the conference, a memorandum was submitted to the university council, listing the students' demands.

The four student blocs at Bir Zeit University signed a joint statement, rejecting appointments to the municipal and village councils of the West Bank. They called for public confrontation of these suspicious efforts and for support to the legitimate, elected councils. They demanded the cancellation of all the occupation's decisions and measures concerning the councils since 1982.

BETHLEHEM

The most important event at this university was that the students achieved almost all their demands through a strike

declared by the student council at the beginning of the year. After 17 days, the strike ended when an agreement was reached with the administration. Most of the students' demands were met, including the provision of a clinic, medical care and insurance, and a lawyer, reducing the prices of books, an obligatory course on the Palestinian question, a microphone for the student council, amendment of the laws for admission and transfer, improving the library and establishing a fund for needy students.

In March, the seventh annual book fair was held by the student council's cultural club. On April 18th, the student council's Palestinian popular heritage club sponsored a cultural event. Al Fonoon folklore group performed in the university's theater. As the celebration started, the US flag was burned amidst the shouting of slogans condemning the US attack on Libya. There was a speech condemning the attack and calling for Palestinian national unity.

AL NAJAH, NABLUS

A political dispute occurred among the students of this university when the Student Social Youth Movement invited Knesset member Mohammed Miari to speak at the student conference. The Student Action Front issued a statement opposing the invitation's having been extended without the knowledge of the other student blocs at the university. The statement termed the invitation a deviation, whereas the student conference should express national unity.

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, HEBRON

On April 16th, there was an Israeli military order to close down this institute for two weeks, after students had organized a demonstration protesting the Tehiya Party's conference in Hebron. The demonstrators had raised Palestinian flags and resisted the Zionist troops by throwing stones and fire bombs. Reinforcements had to be brought in to repress the demonstration. Zionist soldiers opened fire on the students and raided the institute. Eleven students were injured.

The Student Action Front at the Polytechnic Institute issued a statement condemning the US attack on Libya, that was signed by other organizations in Hebron: The Progressive Front for Trade Union Action, the Union of Volunteer Work Committees, the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees and the Union of High School Students' Committees.

HEBRON UNIVERSITY

On April 16th, the board of trustees of this university held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the US attack on Libya. They issued a statement on behalf of the university administration, staff and student body, condemning this attack which is a challenge to all Arabs. It is known that Ja'bari, chairman of the board of trustees is pro-Jordanian. One can therefore surmise that the statement came about as a result of pressure exerted on the board by the student body.

ABU DIS COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Students began a strike for the right to form a student council. In a statement on January 4th, the students rejected the academic council's suggestion that they form science clubs rather than a student council. The university administration alleges that a student council would cause unrest and disturb the academic program. As the strike continued, the administration decided to cancel the academic term, itself disrupting the academic program. This intensified the students' opposition, and the student coordinating committee called for a nighttime sit-in starting January 19th.

CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY COLLEGE, RAMALLAH

On March 15th, all student blocs at this college joined together in arranging a student conference. The conference submitted a memorandum to the administration demanding that the students be allowed to form a student council, and that