

expelled teachers and students be reinstated. The administration's response was to close the college for several days.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY, GAZA

On March 27th, Israeli forces raided the university and searched offices and classrooms until late in the night, while all traffic to the university was stopped. The preceding month, starting in mid-April, the university had witnessed violence against the nationalist and progressive students, perpetrated by the reactionary Islamic Student Bloc and supported by the administration.

The administration suspended five students for a week, and warned another, claiming they had violated university regulations. The students say that these measures were taken because they had organized a moment of silence commemorating the Deir Yassin massacre where 254 Palestinians were slaughtered by the Zionist Irgun terror organization in 1948. Progressive and nationalist students organized a sit-in on April 13th in front of the administration building, demanding that the administration cancel its decision to suspend the five students. On April 16th, the administration decided to expel all six students. Students from the reactionary Islamic Bloc prevented them from entering the university. They also beat up women who were participating in the sit-in. The Progressive Student Action Front issued a statement condemning the barbarism of the reactionaries, and accusing the administration of masterminding their actions. The statement also condemned the expulsions.

Mass organizations in the Gaza Strip also issued condemnations of the reactionaries' violence and held the administration responsible. The statement was signed by: The Progressive Front for Trade Union Action, the Palestinian Women's Committees, the Union of High School Students' Committees and the Volunteer Work Committee.

1948 OCCUPIED PALESTINE ARAB HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCILS

On February 9th, the regional conference of Arab High School Student Councils was held in Nazareth, with the following slogans: "Student unity is the guarantee for achieving our just demands, No to cosmopolitanism, Yes to programs that respect our national history, heritage and literature. The main speech at the conference asserted that the Palestinian students would never retreat in their struggle to achieve their legitimate rights. It was pointed out that the solid position of the high school councils had led to more repression against them by the Israeli authorities who were attempting to minimize the role of the councils. The speech included an announcement that the Arab Druze schools had joined the councils, as seen in the attendance of the delegation from these schools. The conference approved the main slogan for the coming year: For the broadest student unity to unite the struggle against fascism and racism directed at our Arab masses.

Nazareth Mayor Tawfiq Ziad addressed the conference on the current political situation, especially the attempts of imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction to eliminate the PLO's role as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He also said that a just peace will never be achieved unless the Palestinian people attain their legitimate rights to establish their independent state. He called on the students to unite in the battle against racism.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY

Early in the year, the Arab Student Front at Hebrew University issued a statement calling for resolving the Palestinian issue based on establishing an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. The statement condemned all attempts to split student unity, made by those who are chasing after capitulationist solutions, and conspiracies beginning with the Reagan plan up to the Amman accord. The statement called for foiling the Amman accord and restoring the PLO's unity, based on the Aden-Algiers agreement and the 16th PNC's resolutions.

The statement also demanded an end to the iron fist policy, and called on all students to unite in the struggle against the Israeli enemy's policies of occupation and racism, and for national independence for the Palestinian people, for equality and democracy.

It is noteworthy that the dominant phenomenon among the nationalist student organizations in the part of Palestine occupied in 1948, is that of positiveness and close coordination. This was evident in the joint list between the Arab Student Front and the Progressive Nationalist Movement in the recent student elections at Jerusalem, Haifa and Bir Saba' (Beer Sheba).

VOLUNTEER WORK COMMITTEES

In the Gaza Strip, the occupation authorities sent questionnaires to all employees of public establishments, and all members of popular committees and clubs. The questions focused on their membership and the extent of their involvement in volunteer work committees. At the same time, they were warned not to participate in any volunteer work without special permission from the authorities.

In the occupied West Bank, the most prominent volunteer work was in Duheisheh camp where the camp committee planted 300 grapevines. This was a step to reactivate the committee which has been dormant for a longer period due to the repression inflicted on Duheisheh by the occupation authorities. The committee now intends to implement a comprehensive plan in the near future, beginning with rebuilding the camp's community center that was previously demolished by the authorities.

In Jerusalem, commemorating the Day of the Land, the volunteer work committee prepared a piece of land and renovated a home belonging to a liberated prisoner. This was the first activity organized by the Jerusalem committee for four months. The Social Committee of the Beit Hanina Youth Club did maintenance work on the cemetery in Old Jerusalem.

The volunteer work committees were vocal this year in expressing their political views. All committees signed joint statements condemning King Hussein's speech, the Jordanian regime's plans, and the US attack on Libya, and commemorating Women's International Day, the Day of the Land and May 1st.

Volunteer work clean-up

