

The bourgeois and Zionist press have not emphasized the atrocity of how these two Palestinians were murdered, nor for that matter how the whole Palestinian people is being subjected to Nazi Zionism. The emphasis is never on the horrible measures being perpetrated against Palestinians in Zionist jails, nor on a system dedicated to the total destruction of the indigenous economic, educational and social structures in Palestine, and ultimately the physical elimination of a whole people. There is never any mention that it is these goals and the fascist means used to implement them that have given rise to the Palestinian resistance movement, as the greatest threat to the Zionist entity.

Instead, pro-imperialist and Zionist journalists have woven lengthy articles and debates around the legal and security aspects of the crime and its cover-up. This has been done purposely to divert from the major issue which is the Palestinian cause with its political, social and economic ramifications. The human aspect is left glaringly undiscussed. When it touched upon, ludicrous justifications are happily found for this and other Zionist atrocities.

It would therefore be incredibly naive to be deceived by the false declarations of a «revival of conscience» or «democratic values», «concern for freedom of the press», etc., in Zionist circles. If anything, this media ballyhoo should not be taken as a manifestation of «Israeli democracy», but as an example of how «freedom of the press» can be manipulated, and particular news items muffled or released in accordance with imperialist and Zionist political considerations.

A more realistic picture of this issue can be extracted by viewing it in the context of the power struggle between Labor and Likud, partners in the Israeli national unity government which is on the verge of a reshuffle.

#### APRIL 14TH, 1984

Four Palestinian militants, members of the PFLP, boarded a no.300 bus carrying 45 Zionists bound for Askalan on April 19, 1984. Almost forty years after the atrocious Zionist massacre of

the villagers of Deir Yassin, these youths stepped forth to make their contribution to the Palestinian liberation struggle. They took command of the bus, demanding the release of fellow Palestinians imprisoned in Zionist jails. The operation was considered the most significant one launched by the Palestinian revolution since the Dalal Al Maghrabi operation of March 1978. It derived far-reaching implications from the fact that it took place in the aftermath of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. It was at a time when the Zionist authorities were under local and international pressure because of the general outrage elicited by the atrocities committed under the banner of «Peace for Galilee». This situation added to the Zionist authorities' frenzied determination to crush the operation, even if that meant killing their own people.

Seven Israelis were killed and two wounded when the Zionist forces stormed the bus after ten hours of siege. Two of the Palestinian freedom fighters were killed immediately. The two others, having been taken prisoner, were mercilessly pistol-whipped to death in a wheat field nearby the site of the operation.

The Zionist authorities did not lose much sleep over the issue until recently when it took on a political dimension. Even then, it was not the brutality of the murder which disconcerted them. «Peres... would like to see a commission of inquiry which could pass judgement on the political handling of the affair» (*The Times*, June 3rd).

#### WHY THE SCANDAL?

In this base and intricate game, the question remains as to why this particular time was chosen to raise this particular issue and label it a scandal. According to agreement, Shamir is slated to replace Peres as premier in October. Up till now, however, the Labor Party has been making strides towards a political solution which is conducive to US plans for the region. Having to deal with Likud intransigence would most probably raise obstacles to this process, at a time when the Arab reactionary regimes are bending

over backwards to oblige US imperialism. Zionist intransigence at such a time could set everything back to square one, interfering with the US plans.

It is therefore not surprising that this so-called scandal was dug up from when Shamir was prime minister. It could be an attempt to discredit him and trim his chances for ascension to the premiership, thus extending Peres' term. On the other hand, it is doubtful whether Peres would have been able to make much political capital out of slandering a fellow politician 'just' because he killed two Palestinians. «The majority of the Israeli public... oppose destroying the careers of Israeli officials whose only crime may have been involvement in putting terrorists to death» (*New York Times*, June 3rd).

Indeed, it has always been that the more fascist the leader the dearer he is to the hearts of the Zionist settlers. Such was the case with Moshe Dayan, Begin and Sharon. Thus, if the Labor Party (and its US supporters) were to go so far as to push for new elections on this issue, Peres would probably lose the popularity accumulated so far through the painstaking and dramatic, economic overhaul underway in the Zionist state. Shamir might regain some of the popularity the Likud has lost in the past few months.

On the whole, it is not likely that the differences raised over this issue will be pushed too far, since neither of the two parties would allow the killing of two Palestinians - a commonly accepted practice by both Labor and Likud - to become the justification for splitting the coalition government.

If Peres wins this round of politiking, this would naturally facilitate US plans for the region. On the other hand, the possibility remains that Shamir will assume the premiership as stated, especially in view of the Likud's 14-11 victory in the cabinet vote against holding a judicial investigation of the Shin Bet 'scandal'. Nevertheless, the 'scandal' will remain on hand to be used in the future if Shamir should decide to put obstacles to the imperialist plans for the region.

*Majid Abu Juma and Subhi Abu Juma - the two Palestinian militants murdered by the Shin Bet*

