

achieve over years of struggle, mainly through hunger strikes.

The repressive measures against our prisoners are part of the authorities' iron fist policy against all the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine. This aims at prohibiting our people from expressing their rejection of the occupation and its settlement plans. 1,100 Palestinians were fined and imprisoned between April and September of 1986. Sentences were passed on the basis of the repressive Tamir law which allows for trial and conviction, even if there is no concrete evidence or confession. The total of the fines imposed by the military courts on Palestinians during the same period exceeded \$224,000.

The following are the main incidents in Israeli prisons during the past few months:

1. On April 16-17th, while the 250 political prisoners in Jenin prison were preparing for the International Prisoners' Day celebration, the authorities attacked them, using bats and tear gas, and gas that irritates the skin with week-long effects.

2. On May 3rd and May 9th, the authorities prohibited the prisoners' families from visiting them in Kafr Yona prison (Beit Lid). On June 9th, the authorities refused to allow the prisoners to conduct prayers for the Muslim holiday collectively. The soldiers attacked the prisoners, and used tear and skin-irritant gas.

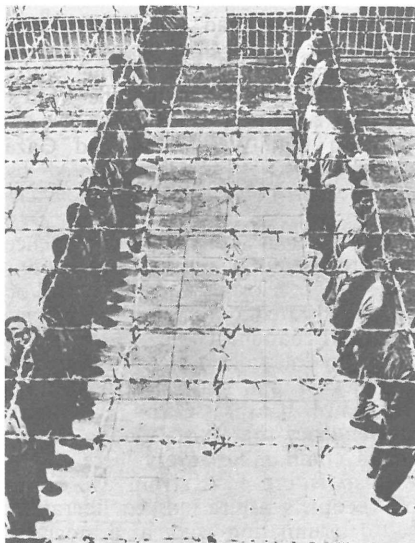
3. On May 27th, more than 800 prisoners in Jnaid, Nablus central prison, declared a hunger strike to continue until the authorities respond to their just demands. The prisoners decided to have a hunger strike after the authorities refused to recognize and meet with their elected representative. The authorities also refused to meet with some of the prisoners to discuss certain practical issues. The authorities also issued a decree that forces every prisoner to go to the prison administration personally if they need anything.

4. On June 2nd, the 48 political prisoners in Bir Saba' declared a hunger strike, and issued a statement appealing to public opinion for support to fulfill their just demands.

5. On June 20th, the Zionist authorities of Jnaid prison in Nablus attacked families who were trying to visit their imprisoned relatives. The authorities used bats and tear gas. The prisoners were continuing the hunger strike they began on May 27th, protesting their miserable conditions.

6. On June 21st, the authorities in Neve Tirza women's prison attacked the 20 Palestinian prisoners, after pushing Israeli criminal prisoners to start a fight with the Palestinian political prisoners.

7. On July 18th, Zionist soldiers attacked Palestinian prisoners in Gaza prison. Some of the prisoners were forbidden to see their relatives. The prisoners' families were also attacked with tear gas bombs. Moreover, many women and children were injured when



the soldiers sprayed them with water hoses, to keep them from seeing their relatives in the prison.

8. On July 23rd, a new section was opened in Hebron (Al Khalil) prison, completely isolated from the old prison. The political prisoners were moved into the new section, alongside criminals. The new section does not have any hot water or library for the prisoners.

9. On August 3rd, the Palestinian prisoners in Hebron prison went on a hunger strike for five days. Another 85 teenage prisoners joined in the strike in solidarity. Four of the political prisoners were transferred to Ramleh prison hospital, after they were beaten by the prison administration. The prisoners' mothers held a sit-in at the International Red Cross centers in Hebron and Jerusalem, in solidarity with the political prisoners. The sit-in was dispersed by force.

10. On August 22nd, 54 Palestinian prisoners in Ramleh prison went on a hunger strike, because they had been moved to criminal wards, and because the prison administration searches their cells four times a day.

11. On August 26th, 300 Palestinian prisoners went on a hunger strike. The prisoners announced they would continue the strike until their demands are fulfilled.

GENERAL DEMANDS OF THE PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

1. To halt the use of all physical violence against the prisoners, such as beating by bats, using tear gas and skin-irritant gas, solitary confinement for long periods and in dark rooms.

2. To resolve the problem of overcrowding in the prisons, to insure the minimum room for sleeping. (The authorities put 32 prisoners in one cell that takes a maximum of 18 prisoners.) The prisoners also demand that the place for their breaks be enlarged. 100 prisoners take their break in a 72 square meter area. They also demand a longer

break, and to be allowed sun and fresh air which are necessary for the human body.

3. To remove the iron plates that are fixed on the windows of the cells, as these prevent light and air from coming through.

4. To improve the quality and quantity of the prisoners' food.

5. To provide equipment to clean the cells and the clothes of the prisoners. Unsanitary conditions have caused the spread of insects in the cells, a problem which is especially severe in Kafr Yona prison. In addition the prisoners demand that enough water and soap be provided for baths and washing clothes. (The administration gives one bar of soap to every 13 prisoners.)

6. To allow news papers, magazines, and educational books that are issued in occupied Palestine, and to stop the confiscation of books and reading material owned by the prisoners.

7. Improving the quality of medical treatment given to the prisoners. Many prisoners suffer from contagious skin diseases. To allow the prisoners to have surgical operations and to see specialists.

8. To recognize the committees elected by the prisoners as their representatives to speak on their behalf to the prison administration. In addition, not to isolate the elected prison representatives, or move them to other prisons.

9. To separate Palestinian political prisoners from criminals, and to keep the Israeli criminal prisoners away from the Palestinian women prisoners in Meve Tirza and Abu Kabir prisons. To stop allowing the Israeli prisoners to attack the Palestinian political prisoners.

10. To improve visiting conditions, providing waiting places to protect visitors from heat and rain, and to stop provoking and humiliating them.

The Israeli prison authorities refuse to fulfill the just demands of the prisoners. They plan even more repressive measures, ignoring the strikes, sit-ins and protests by prisoners and their families, and the mass organizations in occupied Palestine.

The main task of our committee is to work to force the Israeli authorities to stop the fascist measures against the Palestinian prisoners. We call upon all committees, associations and media institutions to stand by us and protest these practices against the Palestinian political prisoners. We also call upon you to send investigation committees, and expose the results to public opinion. Our committee is willing to provide any help (i.e., information) you need to express your solidarity with our prisoners, and your condemnation of the Israeli authorities' practices.

COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE
OF PALESTINIAN PRISONERS
IN ISRAELI JAILS
P.O. BOX 12601
DAMASCUS, SYRIA