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# Editorial

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## Unity of the Masses - Victory for the Revolution

By the time this issue of *Democratic Palestine* reaches you, another year will have passed and a new year begun. The year that has just passed was full of dramatic, tragic and heroic incidents on the Palestinian level.

In occupied Palestine, the Zionist occupation authorities and the reactionary Jordanian regime have tried their best to benefit from the difficulties experienced by the PLO in connection with the split caused by the right wing's policy. Following the fascist iron fist policy, the Zionists have continued to confiscate Palestinian land, destroy homes, detain young people, close universities, expel patriots from their homeland, shut down newspapers, etc. Thus, the Zionists aim to passify our people and make them accept the occupation.

This year in particular, the Zionists' efforts have been closely coordinated with the Jordanian regime's moves. While carrying out the counterpart of the Zionists' iron fist against patriots in Jordan, King Hussein has been working fervently to bolster his stooges in the occupied territories via a so-called development plan. In this, the regime has complemented the Israeli policy of eliminating the PLO and concurrently the Palestinian cause, in order to impose joint Israeli-Jordanian rule on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

However, contrary to the schemes and wishes of the Zionists and reactionaries, the Palestinian people under occupation have continued their heroic struggle to achieve their national rights, liberation and self-determination in an independent Palestinian state. Our people under occupation have carried on their armed struggle, targeting the Zionist occupation army and its positions. Palestinians have stabbed Zionist soldiers with daggers, thrown stones at their military vehicles, and engaged in public protests, sit-ins and strikes. Moreover, young people of no more than 16 years have started chopping down those who occupy their land, wielding the axes they usually use for chopping diseased branches or parasitic plants off trees. That is our people's way of expressing their determination to survive in spite of all those who try to exterminate them.

In Lebanon, the Palestinian masses and fighters are facing one of the severest battles they have ever faced there. The reactionary, sectarian Amal militiamen have continued their unholy war against our people in the camps. To date, Amal has besieged Rashidiya camp for more than three months. In addi-

tion to shelling the camp daily, the Amal fanatics have prevented food and medical supplies from entering the camp in an effort to starve the people or let them bleed to death.

In an effort to destroy the morale of our people, Amal and their external backers have continued to bombard Shatila and Burj Al Barajneh to the point of demolishing 85% and 50% of these camps, respectively. Still, neither our people nor fighters are surrendering. On the contrary, the Palestinian fighters carried out a brave operation in Maghdousheh, to defend the Palestinian camps and armed presence. This should have proved to Amal and its external allies the extent of the Palestinians' determination to defend their armed struggle into order to liberate their homeland. This determination has proved to be stronger than the efforts of Amal or any other reactionary force to disarm the Palestinian revolution for the sake of making 'security' arrangements with the Zionist enemy.

In another field, efforts have continued to repair the damage caused to the PLO and Palestinian liberation struggle by the Palestinian right wing, especially with the signing of the Amman accord with the Jordanian monarch. The latest of such efforts was the meeting in Prague between the PFLP Secretary General, Doctor George Habash, and Arafat's deputy, Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad). In this meeting, comrade Habash advised Abu Jihad to have Fatah's Central Committee cancel the Amman accord. Dr. Habash also tried to convince Abu Jihad of the dangers that face the Palestinian revolution and cause due to this accord. Abu Jihad promised the PFLP that good news would come at the January 1st anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, but the day passed, and there was no such good news. Until clearly and publicly cancelling the Amman accord, signed by Yasir Arafat and King Hussein, Fatah's Central Committee will bear part of the responsibility for the attacks on our people and revolution. The Fatah Central Committee's continued refusal to cancel the Amman accord leaves the PLO divided, which encourages antagonistic forces to try to implement their schemes against our people.

In spite of the tragedies experienced by our people this past year, they insist on maintaining their heroic steadfastness. Whenever hostile forces try to deprive the Palestinian people of an honorable life, our people renew their struggle like the phoenix which comes back to life everytime it is burned. This continual reassertation of the vitality and justice of the Palestinian cause is today being seen in occupied Palestine, especially with our people's militant uprising in December. It is being seen in the heroic defense of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, and in the constant struggle to reunite the PLO, so that it can lead the people's struggle on a clear anti-imperialist line.

The past year's experience has clarified and reinforced a number of facts, among them:

- Our people's insistence on fighting the Zionist occupation of Palestine will continue until achieving the aims of liberation and an independent Palestinian state.

- All imperialist, Zionist and reactionary efforts to create proxies and alternatives to the PLO have come to naught.

- The Palestinians' right to struggle from all Arab countries surrounding occupied Palestine can only be guaranteed by a stable alliance with the Arab masses and progressive forces.

- Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon cannot be ignored or cancelled, despite the wishes of multiple enemies, or the stupid miscalculations of antagonistic trends.

- The unity of the Palestinian fighters and patriots in the field is stronger than any divisive or deviationist trends in the PLO leadership.

As the Palestinian people continue their revolution in the new year, we extend our best wishes for success in the struggle to all peoples of the world who are striving for liberation, social justice, peace, progress and socialism. We urge the strengthening of international solidarity in the common struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reactionary forces, to advance the cause of the national liberation movements, the socialist countries and progressive forces everywhere. ●