

are always «morphine injections» - promises and small payments. In 1986, the local councils declared a general strike that lasted the first seventeen days of July. The strike was suspended after the government declared readiness to increase the 1986 budget by 11 million shekels; this was then raised to 20 million shekels on the insistence of the local Arab councils. The government also decided to increase the development budget of the Arab councils by 65 million shekels. This occurred on the condition that the councils increase their local tax revenues by 4.5 million shekels, which would increase the hardships on the Palestinian residents. This was the first time the authorities have submitted to demands to increase both the general and development budgets, although the councils have long struggled for this. The Arab councils still demand that the government lay down a plan that would equalize the budgets of Arab and Jewish councils in relation to the size of the population they serve.

To the extent that the Arab councils have succeeded in carrying out projects and programs, this occurred through aid from charity societies, collection campaigns and organizing voluntary work camps, where delegates from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip participate, along with supporters of the Palestinian struggle from other countries. This has saved the councils millions of dollars.



4. EDUCATION POLICY

The Zionist entity has continued the stultification policy previously enacted by the Ottoman and British occupations. This is manifest in a gross shortage of Arabic schools at all levels - nurseries, kindergartens, elementary and vocational schools. In addition, there is a lack of laboratories and libraries. In 1982, an Israeli committee was formed to study the conditions of Arabic education, headed by Emanuel Kapolovitch. It issued a report in 1984 which, among other things, stated: «At the end of the 1982-83 school year, the school shortages in the Arab domain reached 600 classrooms, and 600 departmental and laboratory rooms. There is a need for 1,200 rooms for kindergartens. To expand vocational education, there is a need for an additional 800 rooms. There is a big number of classrooms that are rented, very small, unfit and overcrowded... Health conditions in the schools are difficult. There are no doctors or even nurses. The Arab schools lack the most important basic facilities like services, drinking water and water for washing... We are not talking about luxuries, but describing very bad health conditions which constitute a great danger by facilitating the spread of intestinal diseases.»

Things don't stop here, for the Arabic curriculum has been distorted in a manner that serves Zionist goals. This is especially true of the history books which concentrate on Zionist history and mention only a fraction of Arab history and even then from a Zionist viewpoint.

In the Naqab, there were only four schools in 1960 with a total of seven teachers. By the 1967-68 school year, this had increased to 36 teachers for 15 schools and 45 classes. Until 1961, instruction ended with the fifth grade; in that year, a sixth grade was added, and in the seventies, a secondary school was opened. On October 17, 1984, *Haaretz* reported on educational conditions in the Naqab: «The preparatory school buildings don't have indoor toilet facilities... Some windows haven't been fixed for

years... There are no gardens near the schools... It is easily said that educational buildings of this standard are a shame on Israel.»

In the field of higher education, the number of Palestinian Arab graduates between 1950 and 1960 was 100. From 1960 to 1970, about 300 graduated. Despite the relative increase in the number of Palestinian Arab graduates in succeeding years, a high percentage of them don't get work in their field of study, because the doors of government institutions and departments are closed in their faces. Palestinians university students face problems on a daily basis, ranging from insults to expulsion and deprivation of union representation. Still, there are many committees and unions for university students, which are not recognized by the university administration. Palestinians also face high tuition fees as compared to those paid by Jewish students whose fees are reduced in accordance with their term of military service. (Jewish students do military service before entering the university.)

5. HEALTH POLICY

In this field we will suffice with a quick look at the bad health conditions and intentional negligence, as documented in the report of the first Arab Health Conference, held in Nazareth on April 12, 1986, and published in *Al Ittihad* newspaper of Rakah:

- Among Palestinian Arabs, the average infant mortality rate is double that among Jews.
- Among Palestinians, three times more children die of unknown causes than among Jews.
- 80% of Palestinian Arab citizens live in areas where there is no sewage system.
- There is 33% leakage in pipes in the Palestinian Arab domain, due to corrosion, as compared to 10% in the Jewish domain. Such problems lead to water pollution and the spread of intestinal diseases and poisoning.
- The number of Palestinian Arab Histadrut members (and their families) benefitting from health insurance is 437,500 (13.7%); the number of Histadrut health insurance clinics in the Arab domain is 101 out of a total of 1,274 clinics. None of the 46 regional clinics are in the Arab domain.
- The percentage of health personnel in the Palestinian Arab domain is 3.8% and of doctors, 2%; while there are no dentists and dental clinics.
- While a doctor in the Jewish domain treats 1,800 cases, a doctor in the Palestinian Arab domain treats 2,900.
- In the administrative staff of the Histadrut's health insurance service, there are no Palestinian Arab employees.
- First aid centers do not exist in the Palestinian Arab areas.
- There are only three ambulances of the Histadrut's health insurance service available to Palestinian Arabs.
- Night medical care is available only in main cities, not in villages.
- Doctors in the Palestinian Arab sector work 90 hours weekly, while those in the Jewish sector work 177 hours.
- The Israeli budget for medical services is 3.8 million new shekels, of which the Arab domain receives 2.28%.*
- There are no schools or institutions for handicapped or retarded children in the Palestinian Arab sector.

Moreover, there is no health program for schools in the Palestinian Arab sector. There are the problems of overcrowding, unhealthy housing and insufficient sanitary services, etc. If an Israeli medicine factory makes a mistake, this is brought to the attention of the public in the Hebrew press, but not in Arabic newspapers. Even if a Palestinian citizen is covered by health insurance, the medical care which he/she receives is dependent on the doctor's racist thinking and mood. In early October 1985, 20,000 Palestinians in the Naqab collected their health insurance cards to return them, as a protest against the bad health conditions.

6. ECONOMIC POLICY

The Palestinian Arab citizen is the first to suffer from Israeli economic policy. Taxes are high. Exemptions and aid provided by the government to Jews and large families are conditional on

* 1000 old shekels = 1 new shekel