

Palestinians: William Nasser and Abu Ati Bisaiso. We sent several petitions condemning these methods.»

«One year before our release, we heard that PFLP-General Command had three Israeli prisoners, and we were asked for suggestions about the negotiations... We proposed the following criteria for those to be released: (1) those who had served the longest time; (2) the disabled, sick and mentally disturbed; (3) those who request to stay in occupied Palestine; (4) the exclusion of spies. General Command did a very good job in this exchange. The whole imprisoned national movement was pleased... Our reception among comrades was very happy. We felt we had scored a victory, but we were angry because the camp war had started in Lebanon.»

Zuhdi related his feelings: «I had feelings of longing for freedom, happy feelings of reuniting with my people. This was clear in the welcome we received. I realize that we are entering a new stage of struggle with its difficulties, but I am optimistic.»

Mohammad said, «When we were told about the exchange, I could not describe my happiness. I felt I was going to the paradise of freedom. Nor can I describe my feelings when I was received by our comrades in Libya. Just imagine yourself having been in jail for about twenty years, having a life sentence, and then being freed.»

Abdul Hamid recalled, «We received information from the PFLP leadership that negotiations were taking place, but due to past experience with Arafat's negotiations, we did not feel sure. I did not believe anything until I was taken to Lod airport. Even then, knowing the enemy and its disrespect for agreements, we thought the Zionists would cheat. I started feeling secure when I left the Israeli plane and was on the bus. I felt safe when the Libyan plane took off. I felt proud that my revolution had accomplished another victory over the enemy. I felt happy that I could see the sky without barbed wire, no guard dogs, no handcuffs. On the plane I took a nap. I was awakened by the stewardess trying to separate my hands. I thought they were still handcuffed like on the Zionist plane. I did not yet comprehend freedom. I realize that I have changed locations in the struggle. In the life of freedom, we will continue the struggle until liberating all of Palestine.»

Abu Waffa concluded, «Upon being received by the comrades outside, I felt the happiness of freedom. I entered jail at 26 years of age and came out at 43. I stayed 17 years in the Zionist jails - 6,120 days when I saw the sun for only a few hours at noon and the moon only three times. You can imagine my feelings when I was freed!»

PFLP—DFLP—PCP

Joint Communiqué

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP), THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (DFLP) AND THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP), DECEMBER 22, 1986.

On December 22, 1986, representatives of the leaderships of the PFLP, DFLP and PCP met to discuss the current situation of the Palestinian revolution. In particular, they discussed the savage war of extermination being waged against our Palestinian people in Lebanon by the Amal movement. They also discussed the Zionist-Jordanian schemes against our people in occupied Palestine and the question of Palestinian unity. Herein are excerpts from the communiqué:

LEBANON

«The central task facing all Palestinian nationalist forces in Lebanon is to confront and put an end to the war of extermination being waged against our people's camps by the Amal movement. This war aims to disarm the masses in the camps, to force the inhabitants to flee and to build a security belt in southern Lebanon. This belt, together with that of Antoine Lahd, would be part and parcel of the security measures being demanded by Israel. These measures aim to end the heroic nationalist resistance of both the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

«The Amal movement which adamantly continues to execute its plan... bears the main responsibility for the failure to reach a solution that could stop the bloodshed and destructive agony.

«Our Palestinian people in Lebanon stand in a position of self-defence... The continuation of this war is threatening the national interests of all concerned parties - Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian.

«It is of utmost importance, in order to end this conspiracy, to devote all efforts to achieving a ceasefire, ending the siege of the camps and arriving at a political solution capable of putting an end to the conflict, in order to guarantee the fundamental rights of our people in the camps in Lebanon, and enhance the militant, nationalist Palestinian - Lebanese alliance.

«The Palestinian nationalist presence in Lebanon does not aim to exert hegemony over the Lebanese nationalist forces or to control their nationalist decision. On the contrary, this presence is a supportive factor to the Lebanese nationalist forces and their nationalist program... Neither is the Palestinian

nationalist presence contradictory to the Syrian nationalist role in Lebanon. Rather it is complementary. In the light of these facts, any political solution must guarantee the preservation of Palestinian armed presence, the political and civil rights of our people, the right of our masses to defend their camps and continue the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy, in the context of the common nationalist strategy of the main confrontation forces.

«Until such a political solution is achieved, it is necessary to stop the bloodshed and end the war against the camps. The three organizations reaffirm their commitment to the agreement reached on the basis of the Iranian initiative. The three parties shall facilitate the mechanism of its application, providing guarantees for its success and all parties' adherence to it.

«The three organizations call upon all forces of the Palestinian revolution to shoulder their responsibility and solve all the problems which have arisen on this level. This stand shall preserve the unity of the Palestinian nationalists and deprive the aggressors of any pretext for continuing their aggression on the basis of Palestinian rejection of implementing the agreement.

«The three organizations reaffirm the importance of maintaining the unity in action of all forces of the resistance movement in defending the Palestinian camps. We warn of all attempts to split the Palestinian ranks. These attempts aim to instigate inter-Palestinian fighting.»

OCCUPIED PALESTINE

In occupied Palestine, «the Zionist occupation authorities escalate their repressive policies which aim to strike the Palestinian nationalist forces and personalities. The Palestinian people in the occupied territories are facing a severe terrorist campaign which aims at breaking their heroic resistance. The Jordanian authorities continue their policy of crossing out the PLO and fabricating an alternative. The ultimate goal of this policy is to enforce a bilateral liquidationist deal with the Zionist enemy, at the expense of our people's rights to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. The Jordanian authorities are making use of the