

destroying fifteen houses and a mosque. The next day, helicopters raided the area around Maidoun. On January 8th, Cobras strafed Barachit and Hadatha towns. On January 11th, Israeli helicopters strafed a 5-km stretch from Haris to Taïre. On January 28th, phosphorus shells were dropped on Barachit, followed by shelling. Then the helicopters returned and shot rockets at the town's outskirts. One civilian was killed by the shelling and a number were hospitalized.

## THE WAR OF HUNGER

A dozen or so villages were besieged and subjected to food blockades in January, to punish the people for their compatriots' heroic resistance to occupation. Houla, close to the border

with occupied Palestine, was for all practical purposes under siege the entire month. In the initial phase, 15 citizens were detained, including women and elderly. Food supplies were also held back from Markaba and two nearby villages, as the occupation forces tried to starve the population into revealing the names of patriots who had participated in operations. A row of villages on the northern edge of the 'security zone' were blockaded for the first two weeks of the month. Shopkeepers in the area noted that the food blockades coincided with an influx of Israeli goods.

In late January, Dafala in the eastern sector, was twice besieged. In the second instance, tanks were stationed around the town, and the Israeli forces entered, shooting indiscriminately to

terrorize the citizens. For three long hours, homes were searched, as helicopters buzzed overhead. In the same period, Jbaa was besieged, shelled and deprived of food. Also Yohmor was surrounded and stormed by Israeli troops; all citizens were gathered in the square and two were arrested. Before withdrawing, the Israeli occupation forces destroyed the village's water reservoir.

## TORTURE AND THUGGERY

In January, like every month of the occupation, dozens of citizens were taken for interrogation and detention. In one instance, on January 11th, the Israeli intelligence and the SLA arrested 17 women and girls, and 20 men in the village of Roum. The females were taken to Khiam detention center, and ▶



This map does not show all the villages of the South, but is only intended as a guide to locating the places mentioned in the article.