

Occupied Palestine

Mass Uprising Heads Towards Land Day

«Those Palestinians are demonstrating against Amal's siege of the camps in Lebanon, but they're throwing stones at us!» That is what a Zionist officer told reporters about the mass demonstrations that broke out all over the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in February, and are continuing with full force. The officer may be 'astonished' that Palestinians are throwing stones at the Israelis while protesting Amal's continuous siege of the camps in Lebanon, but the truth he wants to hide is that the Palestinian people are also protesting the Zionist iron fist policy in the occupied territories. The other truth being underscored by the mass uprising is that the struggle of the Palestinian people is dialectically interconnected, whether in Palestine, Lebanon or elsewhere.

The ongoing popular uprising in occupied Palestine clearly projects our people's adherence to their national identity, their land and their representative, the PLO. The current uprising is a continuation of the consistent struggles of our people against the occupation. In February, the popular uprising led one newspaper to headline its story about the demonstrations by saying: «Israel Lost Control.» The following is an account of the uprising starting from February 19th, the day we left off in the previous issue of *Democratic Palestine*.

DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE

In the occupied West Bank, Palestinian youth erected roadblocks in the streets of Ramallah on February 19th. They threw stones at the occupation forces who fired tear gas into the crowd and made arrests. In Nablus, the occupation army imposed a curfew on Askar camp after the residents staged a symbolic funeral for a Palestinian martyr, a taxi driver named Samih Ibrahim Kharrousheh who was killed by the Zionist troops the day before. In a courageous operation, Samih had stormed a Zionist patrol near Askar camp with his taxi, injuring three of the soldiers. Curfew was also imposed on Duheisheh camp in the Bethlehem area.

Also on February 19th, the occupation authorities extended the closure of

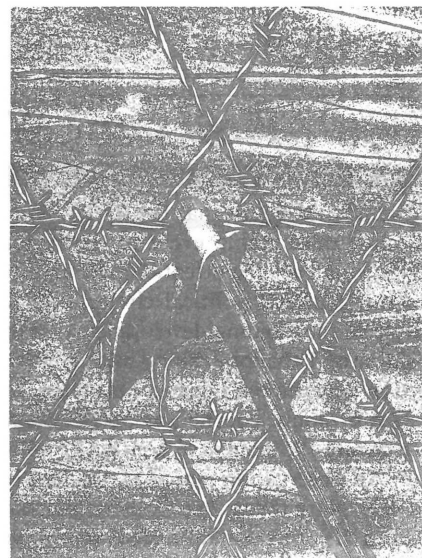
Bir Zeit University for three days and of Al Najah for one week, in an attempt to reduce the possibility of demonstrations breaking out. The Zionists also imposed house arrest on Dr. Abdel Sattar Qasem of Al Najah University. They extended the arrest of *Al Fajr* journalist, Talal Abu Afifeh, for another ten days, while sentencing journalist Hani Abu Ghadhib and Mohammad Sobeh Abdel Haq from Nablus to two months imprisonment.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, Palestinian youth erected roadblocks, threw stones at the occupation forces and waved Palestinian flags in Rafah and Khan Younis. Zionist troops shot indiscriminately, and two Khan Younis youth were wounded. In Jabalia camp, which the Israelis have named 'The Fearsome Camp', militant demonstrations erupted, at which the Zionists imposed a curfew and blocked all entrances to the camp.

On February 21st, Zionist soldiers used tear-gas bombs and shot at demonstrators in Ramallah and Hebron, in the West Bank. An Israeli military spokesman said that one Israeli soldier was wounded and that a curfew had been imposed on Nablus. In Hebron, the occupation forces closed off the area near the Islamic College after student demonstrations. About 150 students staged a sit-in inside the college. In nearby Dura, the occupation forces dispersed a large demonstration. In Gaza, a molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli car, destroying it.

MORE UNIVERSITIES CLOSED

On February 23rd, the occupation authorities closed down the Islamic Colleges in Hebron (until March 15th) and in Gaza (for ten days) after large student demonstrations in which seven students were injured and about 131 arrested. An eyewitness said that the demonstrations erupted when the occupation forces arrested several students and forced them to stand with their hands raised. Meanwhile, other students burned tires and chanted anti-occupation slogans, at which the Zionist forces fired water cannons to disperse them. At the same time, Bir Zeit



and Bethlehem Universities reopened, while Al Najah remained closed. Demonstrations continued in Askar and Al Jalazon camps in the West Bank; the Zionist forces used tear gas, trying to disperse them.

ZIONIST MURDERS

On February 23rd, a Palestinian youth was martyred in the Gaza Strip. Zionist soldiers shot him, claiming that he had refused to stop at a military checkpoint.

In the West Bank, demonstrators erected roadblocks in Ramallah and Beit Jala, while demonstrators in Al Jalazon stoned Israeli settlers' cars. In Askar camp, demonstrators threw stones at Israeli patrols. Zionist troops were reinforced in Jerusalem after the heroic bomb attack on the Israeli border patrol the day before, in the Bab Al Amoud quarter. The occupation forces increased the number of checkpoints and patrols in Jerusalem's streets, while breaking into Palestinian homes and arresting 200 youth. Meanwhile, the infamous terrorist Kahana declared that his KACH gangsters would start conducting special patrols in the Bab Al Amoud quarter. The occupation authorities threatened to close down schools in the Bethlehem area and the Gaza Strip in order to stop the uprising. The military governor of the West Bank prohibited several students from returning to Al Kha'fer Secondary School in Bethlehem after their release from Al Faraah prison, on the pretext that they had incited other students to demonstrate.

In addition to repression in the streets, Zionist oppression was ap-