

parent in other fields of life as well. The occupation authorities decided to demolish 35 houses of Jabalia camp on the pretext that they are located near a military camp. The Israeli magazine *Kutrachit* reported that since 1967, the occupation forces have arrested half a million Palestinians, about one-third the total population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On March 2nd, a Palestinian youth was killed and two wounded during a demonstration in Nablus. The martyr was Fayez Faris Ya'ish who was shot by Zionist soldiers in their attempt to disperse the demonstration. In the Gaza Strip, the occupation authorities ordered 70 houses in Khan Younis demolished under the pretext that they were built without a license.

In Um Al Fahm in 1948 occupied Palestine, over 4,000 people marched through the streets, protesting the closure of the town's schools due to lack of funds. While outright closing educational institutions in the 1967 occupied territories, the Zionists adopt a policy of starving the educational system for Palestinians within the borders of the Israeli state, both in an attempt to keep the Palestinians subjugated.

On March 3rd, the occupation forces imposed a curfew on Balata camp, near Nablus, after demonstrations in which residents erected roadblocks and threw stones at the Zionist soldiers. In Ramallah, students at the female teacher's institute demonstrated, burned tires and put up roadblocks in the streets leading to the institute.

In the Gaza Strip, the occupation forces closed down Jabalia secondary school for girls after the pupils had participated in demonstrations. House arrest was also imposed on several Gaza residents who study at Bir Zeit University.

In Jerusalem, the Zionist authorities ordered the closure of Al Nuzha Theater, the home of Al Hakawati theater group. A military court extended the detention of the progressive Israeli Michel Warshawski who was arrested in mid-February when the authorities closed down the Alternative Information Office which he directed.

On March 5th, the occupation forces continued to blockade Al Amari camp near Ramallah for the third consecutive day, after a molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli military vehicle. The same day, settler thugs attacked

several houses and stores in Halhoul, near Hebron, while it was under curfew.

EDUCATION THREATENED

Frustrated with the active, vanguard role of Palestinian students in the mass uprising, the Zionist authorities threatened to permanently close down all Palestinian universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Zionist War Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview with Israeli radio that those universities and schools «had become a locus for disorder and PLO influence which incite student demonstrations.» This can only be understood as a threat to close down the Palestinian universities and secondary schools if the demonstrations continue.

There are reports from occupied Palestine that the Zionist authorities are preparing a special educational curriculum for Palestinian students in the 1948 occupied territories, which is totally contradictory to the goals and historical rights of the Palestinian people. Another element in the Zionist de-education policy is enacted through deliberate neglect. Although careful studies have shown that Palestinian Arabs in the Zionist state need almost 2000 additional classrooms, the authorities have authorized the building of only 90. Only a quarter of Palestinian children attend kindergarten, while 90% of Israeli Jewish children do so.

SMALLPOX THREATENS PRISONERS

Due to the bad conditions in the Zionist jails, there was an outbreak of smallpox among the more than 500 Palestinian prisoners in Jnaid prison, near Nablus. Sixty cases of smallpox were identified. This is the direct result of the occupation authorities' persistent refusal of the prisoners' demands for better living conditions, especially health conditions and alleviating overcrowding in the cells.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

In protest of the Zionist iron fist policy in the occupied territories, international solidarity with the Palestinian people intensified. In Geneva, the UN Committee on Human Rights condemned the Israeli authorities' violation of the Geneva conventions by denying the rights of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and by the continued occupation of the Golan

Heights. The document issued by the 43-member committee expressed deep concern over the iron fist policy, and condemned the arming of Israeli settlers in the occupied territories. As could be expected, the US rejected the document.

No longer able to totally obscure the facts, a US State Department report about the human rights situation in 167 countries acknowledged that Palestinians complain of mistreatment by the Israeli occupation authorities. The US report cited figures concerning the number of Palestinians killed, wounded, missing, arrested, under house arrest or deported, and the number of houses demolished and shops closed. The US figures were, however, much lower than those cited by Amnesty International. For example, the US report stated that in 1986, about 32 Palestinians had been placed under administrative detention, while Amnesty International reported 144 Palestinians arrested in this way in 1986.

COORDINATED STRUGGLE

The present uprising is a continuation of the chain of mass uprisings since the day the Zionists set foot in Palestine. It encompasses all the towns, villages and camps of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, attesting to our masses' ability to organize and coordinate joint action, despite the Zionist attempt to disrupt this coordination by imposing curfews and blockades. The masses' resistance is reinforced by the intensification of armed struggle, and the creation of new forms of confronting the Zionist enemy. The Zionist officials' own words and hysterical measures also serve to confirm the magnitude of this uprising.

As we go to press, demonstrations continue, heading towards the Day of the Land on March 30th, the annual occasion for Palestinians to manifest their unified adherence to their land and the PLO. The current demonstrations have reinforced the unity of the people in confronting the array of dangers threatening their lives and revolution, from the Israeli-Jordanian division of functions plan, to Amal's war of attrition on the camps, from the occupiers' iron fist to imperialism's animosity to Palestinian rights. Daily our masses are confirming their ability to confront and eventually defeat the fiercest of the enemy's plans to liquidate the Palestinian cause. ●