

and the West Bank. In vain, the Zionist police tried to force shopkeepers to reopen their shops; a number of youths were arrested for distributing handbills. In the Zionist jails, 1,500 Palestinian prisoners joined in the hunger strike that had begun the week before in the prisons of Nablus, Jenin, Ashkelon and others.

There were numerous clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and the Zionist police and border patrol throughout the occupied territories. Demonstrations were particularly militant in Tulkarim and in the West Bank refugee camps of Balata, Duheisheh and Al Amari. The Zionist forces, armed with machine guns, confronted angry demonstrators with tear gas and clubs. Palestinians began throwing everything they could lay their hands on against the enemy. Slingshots were used to hurl pieces of metal at Zionist soldiers. The Israeli newspaper, *Hadashot*, reported demonstrators in Balata using slingshots, noting that scores of Palestinians had used this 'weapon'. In Balata, two Palestinian youth sustained bullet wounds in their legs when a Zionist soldier shot at them.

In Al Bireh, north of Jerusalem, a soldier was wounded as was another near Nablus. In a demonstration near Qalandia, a 12 year old boy was arrested for burning tires in the street. In the Gaza Strip, two Palestinian youths were wounded when the Zionist forces shot indiscriminately, trying to suppress a demonstration in Jabalia camp.

Palestinians demonstrated in the Galilee - in Sakhnin, Deir Hanna and Araba, as did thousands in the Naqab. A prominent display of popular protest took place in Um Al Fahm where more than 30,000 Palestinians participated in a demonstration against Zionist occupation, to commemorate Land Day. Israeli flags were burnt and Palestinian flags hoisted in their stead. Knesset member Moshe Arens described this as a «dangerous act» and a number of Palestinians were consequently arrested.

In another prominent demonstration, 20,000 Palestinians marched from Sakhnin to Araba, singing the Palestinian national anthem and other patriotic songs. A large number of marchers voiced support for Dr. George Habash, Secretary General of

the PFLP, and for the restoration of Palestinian national unity.

The true danger, however, came from the so-called 'special army' which played a particular role in suppressing demonstrators. This 'army' consists of 80 members gathered from the Zionist extremist gangs, Gush Emunim and Kach - organized, trained and armed fanatics. They operate freely on the pretext of protecting private and public Israeli vehicles on the roads of the West Bank from stone throwers, while the Zionist authorities turn a blind eye to their harassment of Palestinians.

The Zionist authorities imposed curfews on Duheisheh and Balata camps, arresting more than 70 Palestinians for throwing stones at military vehicles. Similarly, seven students were arrested from the Islamic College in Al Khalil, and the campaign of curfews, closures and arrests continued well past Land Day. Bethlehem University was closed down till April 6th. Two secondary schools in Beit Sahour and Al Khader, near Jerusalem, were also closed, while five students from the former were arrested. Balata and Duheisheh camps remained under curfew well into the first week of April. On April 6th, the guardians of 120 students of Salfil school in Tulkarim were ordered to meet with the military governor, and forced to sign statements guaranteeing that they would not allow their children to demonstrate in the future.

Commemoration of Land Day was not confined to Palestinians in the occupied homeland. Palestinians in Kuwait, Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Democratic Yemen, the Gulf states, Moscow, the United States and other places celebrated this occasion in a unique expression of unity in the common cause. Everywhere slogans were raised such as «No to autonomy,» «No to the Jordanian regime,» «Death to collaborators,» «Down with the Amman Accord» and «Yes to the PLO - sole, legitimate representative» - clearly indicating wide-spread awareness of the national struggle. Highly significant was the slogan raised during a demonstration held by roughly one hundred students at Yarmouk University in Jordan, scene of the bloody massacre of 34 students a year ago. The students raised the slogan: «Liberate Palestine by armed struggle.»

Mass Resistance

In the first two weeks of April, there were repeated demonstrations in the occupied territories, in solidarity with the political prisoners' hunger strike, as well as stone throwing against Israeli vehicles. In the occupied Golan Heights, hundreds of residents clashed with the Israeli police after Zionists blew up the statue of Sultan Atrash, historical leader of the anti-colonial struggle in Syria. Israeli policemen were injured in the clash in Majdel Shams.

On April 11th, an Israeli settler was killed in a fire bomb attack. Zionist settlers went on a rampage in the nearby Palestinian town, Qalqilia, smashing windows and burning orchards. Qalqilia's mayor reported that 20 Palestinian homes and six cars were damaged. Palestinians in the towns and camps of the area started a series of protests against the settlers' violence, while the military authorities clamped a curfew on Qalqilia, and bulldozed three rows of orange trees on each side of the road where the attack had occurred.

In the early hours of April 13th, dozens of Bir Zeit University students were arrested, nine of them held under administrative detention. This did not stop a thousand students from demonstrating at the university later that day, protesting the settlers' rampage and reiterating solidarity with Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike. Zionist soldiers opened fire on the demonstrators, killing Musa Hanafi, a 22 year old history student from the Gaza Strip, and wounding three others. The university was ordered closed for four months, and curfews were imposed on several West Bank towns and camps. Still, protests continued the next days throughout the West Bank. In the occupied Gaza Strip, residents of Rafah, home of the martyr, demonstrated in protest of murder. The military authorities imposed a curfew, as Minister of War Rabin vowed a general crackdown on Palestinian resistance.

