

Military Operations

The forward motion of history has produced the philosophy that the colonialists' terror and oppression of a people struggling for their national rights only forms fertile ground for the seeds of resistance. The truth of this philosophy has been proven by the experiences of scores of nations that were subject to colonialism. It is evidenced today in the Palestinian people's struggle against Zionist occupation. A review of recent military operations, along with the mass uprising and prisoners' hunger strike (see articles in this issue), proves the determination of the Palestinian people to rid the land of oranges of the Zionist occupiers.

MARCH

There were 16 military operations in occupied Palestine during the month of March, resulting in the death of four Zionist soldiers and settlers, eight wounded and at least two missing. In addition, at least five Israeli military vehicles were totally destroyed.

The operations were distributed all over Palestine. In occupied Jerusalem, there were three operations, resulting in the death or wounding of at least four Zionist soldiers. In the occupied West Bank, seven operations were conducted, leaving one Zionist soldier dead and three military vehicles destroyed, according to the occupation authorities' estimates. In the occupied Gaza Strip, three operations were carried out; five soldiers were injured and one killed; a military car and bus were destroyed. Three operations occurred in the part of Palestine occupied in 1948; two Zionist soldiers were killed and one is missing.

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METHODS OF STRUGGLE

A variety of methods were employed to attack the occupation forces. Of the 16 operations in March, four were carried out using explosive charges, four by molotov cocktails, four by kidnap-

ping and executing Zionist soldiers, two by knife-stabbing, one hand grenade attack, and one by ramming a car into a gathering of Zionists. Given that using knives, explosives, molotov cocktails and hand grenades is commonplace in attacking the enemy, it is noteworthy that the operations of March included two other types:

First: the kidnapping and execution of Zionist soldiers. This is not a totally new method, but it was prominent during March, causing the most casualties among the Zionists. Such operations also cause great disturbance to the Zionist soldiers, settlers and authorities, a fact which was apparent in the Israeli and international press. Three soldiers were kidnapped and killed, while two others are still missing, without a trace. Israeli television announced that two of the dead soldiers were found in the western sector of Jerusalem. The third, Ami Ben Yehoud, 37 years old, was found in Tel Aviv. The Israeli radio acknowledged that he was a secret police agent. The missing soldiers are Rubin Centerman from Nicher settlement near Haifa (missing since March 19th), and David Buanch who left his house in Ashkelon in early March.

Second: ramming vehicles into gatherings of soldiers. Although only one such operation was carried out in March, it showed great bravery. The fact that it is the third such operation in the recent period indicates that this is a growing trend in resisting the occupation and inflicting casualties on the enemy. On October 21, 1986, a Palestinian truck driver rammed into a military bus station, leaving behind five dead soldiers and 13 wounded. The driver escaped unharmed. On February 18th, a Palestinian taxi driver hit two soldiers near Askar camp, wounding them. The taxi driver was martyred when Zionist soldiers opened fire. On March 17th, a Palestinian-driven car crashed into a military police vehicle in Gaza, wounding five Zionists seriously. The driver managed to escape. These operations led the Israeli press to question whether they form a new type of attack similar to those in South Lebanon.

Among other outstanding operations in March were two stabbings. On March 17th, a unit of the PFLP stabbed and seriously wounded two Zionists in the Arab market in the old Musrarah quarter of Jerusalem. On March 10th, ►

The three Palestinian martyrs of the April 18th military operation.

