

secondary school students in Jenin, in the West Bank, stabbed a Zionist soldier as he attempted to storm the school with his soldiers.

COMPARISON

Comparing the number of operations carried out in March with those of February, it is apparent that there was a decline in frequency, but a significant rise in Zionist casualties. In February, there were 37 operations, leaving one Zionist dead and 23 wounded. In March, 16 operations left four Zionists dead, eight wounded and two missing. The decline in the number of operations can be explained in connection with two factors. One is that military activities in occupied Palestine often come in waves. Second is that the Zionist forces imposed a state of alert and especially tight security measures in March, in anticipation of Land Day. All in all, the operations carried out in March were courageous and of high quality, causing more casualties to the Zionists than in the previous month.

APRIL

On April 5th, there was an explosion on the Haifa-Acca road in the part of Palestine occupied in 1948. In the oc-

cupied West Bank, there were six molotov cocktail attacks on Zionist targets in the first twelve days of the month - in Jenin, Ramallah, Tulkarim, Halhoul, Tubas and near Qalqilia. In the attack near Qalqilia, an Israeli settler was killed when a molotov cocktail exploded inside the car she was traveling in from her house in Alfi Minache settlement. Six other passengers were wounded. This sparked a chain of barbaric acts by settler thugs who burned orchards and attacked Palestinians in Qalqilia.

On April 17, three molotov cocktails were thrown at an Israeli patrol near Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip. The occupation authorities have ordered the construction of walls up to ten meters high, around Palestinian camps in the occupied territories, a decision taken after molotov cocktails and stones were repeatedly thrown at Israeli military patrols. Al Jalazon camp, near Ramallah, has already been encircled with such walls, while they are being built around Duheisheh camp, near Bethlehem.

The Israeli daily *Yediot Ahronot* reported that an Israeli soldier, Arih Albertz, 20 years old, had not been seen

or heard of since April 1st, when he left his house in Asdod, bound for his military base in the Golan Heights.

On April 18th, a three-man Palestinian commando group succeeded in crossing a minefield and electronic fence to enter northern Palestine. The revolutionaries ambushed a Zionist patrol, inflicting heavy casualties in the ranks of the soldiers. According to Israeli reports, the electronic fence alerted the Zionists, and a military patrol chased the commandos. A battle ensued between the settlements of Manara and Yieftah, a few kilometers south of Khalsa in the Upper Galilee. An Israeli military spokesman claimed that all three of the commandos were killed, while saying that an Israeli lieutenant and another soldier died. This was the second cross-border attack since July 1986, when a PFLP-SSNP unit succeeded in reaching northern Palestine, clashing with Zionist troops and inflicting heavy casualties in their ranks. General Yosi Peled, commander of the northern front, stated that an increase in operations in the «security zone» (South Lebanon) and North Palestine should be expected.

Hunger Strike in Zionist Jails

«We think that all this will soon end...» That's what the spokesman for the Zionist prison administration told the French Press Agency after the start of the hunger strike by Palestinian revolutionaries on March 25th. However, the strike lasted 20 days, disproving the Zionists' forecasts.

More than 4,500 Palestinian militants in 14 prisons went on strike, protesting the cruel prison conditions and the physical and psychological torture to which they are subjected. The strike was decided on when the prison administration tightened its iron fist after the appointment of a new director, David Maimon in December 1986, replacing Rafi Suissa. Maimon set about revoking the rights Palestinian prisoners had achieved through long struggles and great sacrifices, accusing his predecessor of «compromising major principles in seeking calm in the prisons.»

Maimon is known for his hatred of Arabs. He has played a big role in ter-

rorizing the Palestinian and Lebanese people, as military governor of the occupied Gaza Strip, and participant in the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. As prison director, he is empowered to organize the prisons and deal with the prisoners as he sees fit. Maimon is also known for his sadism and propensity to use violence. These qualities can be attributed to his inferiority complex as an Oriental Jew, a community that is treated as second-class citizens in the Zionist state. He therefore aspires to exercise power over the Palestinians to show his loyalty to the Zionist leaders who are mostly of western origin.

The current hunger strike is a test of strength between the strikers and the

prison administration. It is the biggest since the 1980 hunger strike in Nafha, when two Palestinian revolutionaries were martyred and scores seriously injured by prison guards in an attempt to force-feed the prisoners and break the strike. The current strike was started on March 25th by over 1,000 militants in the prisons of Nablus, Jenin, Ashkelon and Kfar Youna. Soon more joined in, bringing the number of strikers up to over 4,500 in 14 prisons.

The strikers demanded the reduction of overcrowding in the cells where a prisoner is confined in an area of less than 2.5 square meters, as opposed to six square meters per prisoner in Europe, a fact which Maimon himself