

Occupied Palestine

Military Operations

In April, there was a marked escalation of military operations against Zionist targets in occupied Palestine, parallel to the rise in mass resistance. Spurred on by the restoration of the PLO's unity and national program, this militant trend continued throughout May and into June, stressing our masses' continued will to resist, 39 years after the original occupation of Palestine and 20 years after the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

APRIL

In the last issue of *Democratic Palestine*, we noted some of the military operations in the first part of April. Here we present a summary of the entire month. All in all, Palestinian revolutionaries carried out 33 military operations in the occupied homeland, in addition to more than 27 attacks on Zionist targets using stones. As a result, five Israelis were killed and 21 wounded, according to the admissions of Israeli sources. Moreover, damage was inflicted on a number of Israeli vehicles and establishments.

Operations occurred in all parts of Palestine, and employed a variety of methods and weapons ranging from stones, fire bombs and explosives to machine guns and heavy rockets. An Israeli army spokesman acknowledged that police stations, military buses and soldiers were attacked 23 times with molotov cocktails. Zionist vehicles were increasingly targeted by stones, resulting in the injury of 12 Israeli soldiers and settlers, and damage to many vehicles. Israeli police centers were attacked in the occupied Gaza Strip and in Tobas in the occupied West Bank. Fire bombs were repeatedly thrown at the same target, as in the Gaza Strip when an Israeli patrol was successively hit by fire bombs while trying to clear away the street barriers set up by the people.

In mid-April, Palestinian commandos succeeded in kidnapping a Zionist soldier, David Shoham. He disappeared on April 24th, and Israeli radio reported in early May that he had been found dead, though it claimed that initial investigations indicated suicide.

Perhaps most upsetting to the Zionist leadership was the brave attack of April 18th, when Palestinian revolutionaries penetrated the Zionists' security wall and crossed into northern Palestine, to attack Al Manara settlement. A clash ensued, and before being martyred, the revolutionaries managed to kill several Israeli soldiers. The Israelis admitted the death of two soldiers, one of them an officer, but Palestinian sources estimated the enemy losses to be as many as ten. This heroic operation underscored the failure of the Zionists to achieve their goals in the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, and the inability of their 'security zone' and Lahd's army to insure Zionist security. Two days later, the same point was driven home when rockets launched from South Lebanon landed in northern occupied Palestine.

MAY

The month of May witnessed a great increase in the number of military operations against the Zionist occupation, its military forces, intelligence agents and settler gangs. There were 44 military operations, averaging 1.5 daily. Palestinian freedom fighters hit Zionist targets in all areas of occupied Palestine. According to Zionist admissions, five Israelis were killed and 74 wounded. The operations also caused heavy financial losses to Zionist institutions.

Five operations occurred in occupied Jerusalem where four Israeli vehicles were destroyed and many Zionist soldiers killed or wounded, although the Israeli spokesmen deliberately neglected to announce these casualties.

In the occupied West Bank, there were 20 operations. An Israeli spokesman admitted that seven Zionists were wounded and eight vehicles destroyed. In the occupied Gaza Strip, there were ten operations - in Gaza city, Khan Younis, Rafah and Jabalia camp. According to Israeli admissions, two Zionists were killed and seven others wounded. In addition, six Israeli vehicles were destroyed. In Rafah, the Israeli Hapoalim Bank was blown up. Also in the Strip, a Palestinian citizen was martyred in Khan Younis. He was shot by the Israeli occupation forces who claimed that he was carrying explosives and refused their orders to halt.

In the part of Palestine occupied since 1948, there were nine operations. Israeli sources admitted that three Israelis were killed and sixty others wounded; two Israeli vehicles were destroyed, as was a shop. The Telmoudi Institute was burned as was a store selling tires. These operations occurred in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Khadeira and other places.

In May, there was a marked increase in the use of molotov cocktails. Twenty out of 45 operations were carried out using this weapon, about half of all operations. This weapon has become common among the Palestinians under occupation, because it is easy to make and use. There was also a noticeable rise in attacks using knives. Four operations were carried out using this weapon, killing one Zionist and wounding three. There was also an increase in the use of firearms in confronting Israeli soldiers and intelligence agents. Five operations were carried out using firearms. Israeli soldiers were attacked with guns; others were abducted and then shot, as happened on Al Khadeira road in Tel Aviv on May 17th. Also in May, there was a remote-control explosion. This method was used last year, and it will probably be developed if materials and know-how are available. Moreover, there is a noticeable increase in self-reliance in producing weapons locally. This is seen in the increased use of molotovs and the creation of explosives by filling sacks with burning material to be thrown at Israeli vehicles and establishments.