

Zionist Terror and Iron Fist Policy

April was characterized by extensive, arbitrary arrests in the occupied territories in an attempt to suppress the ongoing mass uprising. An Israeli army spokesman announced that more than 71 Palestinians had been arrested in the early days of April. On April 15th, Defense Minister Rabin announced that the Zionist forces had arrested more than 100 people in the Gaza Strip in the two preceding days. At least ten were imprisoned in Ansar II detention camp, without charges being brought against them. Students were among those targeted by the arrest campaign. At Beit Sahour high school in the West Bank, fifty students were arrested, while seven were arrested from Hebron University. On April 13th, twenty Bir Zeit University students were detained. Of these, nine were placed under administrative detention for six months. Added to the nine Palestinians administratively detained in late March, this brings the total of such detainees to over sixty.

The Zionist courts handed out sentences to 134 Palestinians during April, ranging from fines to life imprisonment. Moreover, at least five residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip were placed under house arrest, while five residents of Duheisheh camp were served with deportation orders.

Arrests continued to rise in May with the Zionists' failure to halt the mass resistance. In the early part of May, 250 students were arrested in Dur, near Hebron; four citizens were arrested in Nazareth; five in Jenin; thirty from Qalqilia, and sixty from Duheisheh. In mid-May, the Zionist forces arrested 300 students of the Islamic University in Gaza, and 30 of them were sent to Ansar II. Arrests continued in the camps, villages and towns of the occupied territories after the large May 15th demonstrations.

In May, 202 Palestinians were sentenced to prison terms ranging from a few months to forty years. Heavy fines were also imposed. Thirteen citizens were arrested without charges being specified, and house arrest was imposed on ten Palestinians.

Also in May, two prominent student activists were expelled from occupied Palestine by the Zionist authorities.

One of them was Marwan Barghouti, chairman of Bir Zeit University Student Council. The other was Khalil Ashour, resident of Askar camp, who was a student leader at Al Najah University.

Reports from occupied Palestine in May also told of a new form of Zionist atrocity. Palestinian prisoners in Nablus prison have been used for testing the elements of germ weapons. The prison authorities exposed them to the effects of drugs which can change human genetic characteristics. This is reminiscent of the kind of experiments made in Nazi concentration camps in the time of World War II.

HALTING PALESTINIAN EDUCATION

In a form of collective punishment, the Zionist authorities have closed a number of universities and high schools, hoping to deter students from participation in demonstrations and other nationalist activities. As of late April, Al Najah University had been closed a total of 102 days during this academic year. Students at Bethlehem University had lost 39 teaching days. In mid-April, Bir Zeit University was ordered closed for four months. All universities and many high schools of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were closed for periods ranging from a few days to two weeks during April.

DEMOLISHING HOMES

In April, the last remaining house owned by a Palestinian Arab in the southeast part of Jabalia quarter of Jaffa was demolished by the Israeli police. Ismael Dabbagh had inherited his house from his father, and his grandfather had lived there before him. Though the house was very small in size and surrounded by Jewish-owned houses on all sides, the Israeli authorities had issued an order for its demolition because it had been disturbing the Zionists for 39 years, i.e., since the 1948 occupation of this part of Palestine. Ismael Dabbagh had fought a long legal battle to save his family's home, but in the end, all his appeals were rejected, though he possessed ownership papers on the house. The

family home was demolished as part of the Zionists' long - standing policy of Judaization, to deprive Palestinians of living quarters in their homeland, while bringing in new Zionist settlers to replace them. In line with the same policy, the Israeli authorities moved to evacuate the Palestinian citizen, Rashad Subhi Al Karaki from his home in Akaba Al Khaldieh quarter of Jerusalem, claiming that it belonged to Jews.

In Um Al Fahem, in the Galilee, the Zionist authorities destroyed sixty houses, claiming they were built on agricultural land. In the Naqab (Negev), forty houses in the Bir Sabe area were destroyed on various pretexts. In the occupied West Bank, a number of houses were demolished by the bulldozers of the 'civil' administration department, on the pretext that they were built without a license.

In Jerusalem, three Palestinian homes were ordered sealed. They belong to Hussein Alian, Isam Jandal and Abdul Nasir Al Huleisa, all accused of staging the 1986 attack on the recruitment ceremony for the Gevati Brigade (special Israeli army unit) in Jerusalem, where the Zionists suffered seventy casualties.

SETTLER TERROR

The Zionist settlers have played a prominent role this spring, complementing the Zionist state's terror tactics against the Palestinians under occupation. The failure of the Zionist security forces to stop Palestinian commando attacks led the armed settler movement to demand that the state impose an even harsher iron fist policy. After a settler was killed near Qalqilia, Zionist settlers demanded that the state take new emergency measures such as:(1) closing all Palestinian newspapers;(2) destroying three rows of houses in the Palestinian camps, adjacent to main roads;(3) imposing a minimum five-year sentence on all stone throwers; and (4)stepping up settlement-building. The Council of Settlers established a working leadership to act against Palestinian national institutions and to map new strategies for creating new settlements prior to