

gaining official permission.

There were a series of terror attacks on Palestinian citizens in April, carried out by Zionist settler gangs in concert with the official Zionist forces. The Israeli newspaper *Hadashot* reported that settlers blocked traffic on the Jerusalem-Hebron road near Halhoul and threw stones at Palestinian-owned cars. The fascist KACH movement of Kahana announced that it had established a special unit for 'protecting traffic' to and from the settlements. Near the village of Al Tayaseer, a group of Zionists threw a hand grenade at five Palestinian children, seriously injuring them. In Gaza, a nine-year old Palestinian child was kidnapped by three settlers who drove away with him in a car. Fortunately, the child was able to jump out of the car and escape.

The settlers' activities reached a peak in mid-April when gangs attacked Qalqilia, destroying Palestinian property. Other settlers invaded Ramallah, threatening the residents with their guns. Settlers also lodged themselves in Al Aqsa mosque and harassed and humiliated Palestinians who came to pray. In mid-April, the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East published a report about the burning of one of its churches in Akka. The church demanded an investigation to determine who had carried out this attack. On the walls of the burned church had been left slogans like: «Kahana the Great», «Get out, Christians and Moslems» and «Death to you, death to the Pope.»

Settler terror continued into May. On May 18th, terrorists stabbed to death a Palestinian child less than eight years old in Jerusalem. On May 3rd, another Palestinian had been found dead in the same city. Two citizens of Gaza were reported missing, most probably kidnapped by settlers. The body of Jebril Abraham Hussein Al Darawish from Dora was found burned to death in his car.

Settlers of the Gush Emunim movement demonstrated in Jerusalem, and blocked the entrances to Nablus on May 9th. They invaded Qalqilia, while it was surrounded by Israeli troops, and damaged Palestinian-owned cars and other property. On May 22nd, settler gangs stormed the village of Masha, near Nablus.

In the Gaza Strip, settlers of the KACH movement attacked the citizens of Rafah, injuring many of them.

These same gangsters attacked a Palestinian factory in Gaza, but the workers fought them off while Israeli troops looked on. KACH also tried to storm Gaza city and Khan Younis, but the citizens stood up to them, and they were not able to enter. On May 30th, five young Palestinians were assaulted by settlers simply because they were in the area of Ramat Ashoul settlement in Jerusalem. A Palestinian guarding a building in Kfar Saba was assassinated by Zionists.

The Zionist authorities demonstrated their support to the terrorist gangs by releasing two Jews, British citizens, who had shot two Palestinians in Jerusalem, injuring one of them. According to *Al Hamishmar* newspaper, the two British citizens have been working as engineers in the Israeli military industry for three years.

The most massive fascist plan was aborted when a Palestinian boy discovered a strange object buried near Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. It appeared to be a time bomb, one of four found in different parts of the mosque at a time when thousands were gathering for prayers at the end of the Ramadan fast. The bombs were timed to explode successively at two-minute intervals. There have been many Zionist attempts to destroy Al Aqsa before, but this was perhaps the most horrible because the intent was to kill thousands of Palestinians as well. Fortunately, however, the charges were discovered and people were warned.

BALATA BESIEGED, BUT STILL RESISTING

Balata camp near Nablus was curfewed and besieged by the Zionist forces several times during May. On May 30th, the Zionist authorities declared the camp, which houses 15,000 people, as a closed area. The Israeli forces made house to house searches, arresting more than sixty residents, aimed to prevent their participation in the ongoing mass uprising. General Yahuda Barak, deputy chief of staff, declared that Balata is one of the main points of tension and 'provocation'. Besides those arrested, 150 citizens were interrogated by the Zionist forces according to Barak who stated that many weapons had been found during the search, including knives and locally produced guns.

For a year and a half, Balata has been repeatedly besieged. Most of the



Hands off Duheisheh and Balata!

young men of the camp have been detained in Al Faraa youth detention camp or other Zionist prisons. Despite all this repression, however, the camp residents are on the frontlines of the anti-occupation struggle.

On May 31st, a curfew was imposed on Balata after an Israeli military vehicle was attacked with a molotov cocktail. The Israelis used tear gas to disperse the women of the camp who defied the Zionists by throwing stones and demonstrating to protest the repression. All residents of the camp over sixteen years of age (about 2,000 people) were gathered in the school yard and interrogated by the occupation forces. Sixty were arrested. The curfew was extended, yet the people of Balata demonstrated again on June 2nd. Several of them were injured as the Zionists shot rubber bullets. The Zionists blockaded the camp, cutting it off from other parts of the occupied West Bank. Still another demonstration broke out on June 3rd. Camp residents confronted the occupation forces with stones and managed to break through the lines of siege. Several Palestinians were injured by the Zionists' gunfire.

In late May, the Zionist authorities issued deportation orders for two Palestinian freedom fighters, Jihad Abdullah of Balata and Abdul Fattah Naser, chairman of the youth union of Khan Younis in the occupied Gaza Strip. They are accused of organizing anti-occupation demonstrations.