

Military Operations

JUNE

The month of June marked 20 years since the 1967 war when the Zionist army seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip, completing their ruthless occupation of all of Palestine. This June, there were widespread acts of mass resistance and military operations, attesting to the Palestinian people's unflinching determination to liberate their land. Despite tight security measures imposed by the occupation authorities in anticipation of resistance on this occasion, there were 38 military operations in June. Fourteen of these were in the West Bank, seven in Jerusalem, one in the Gaza Strip and 16 in the Palestinian land occupied in 1948.

Explosive charges and molotov cocktails together accounted for two-thirds of the anti-occupation attacks in June. The increased use of molotov cocktails is particularly indicative of the conditions and development of militant struggle under occupation. Molotovs can be prepared at home with simple ingredients. They have thus become the favored weapon

of the new generation of Palestinians growing up under occupation. In addition to the cadres of various resistance organizations and their planned operations, increasing numbers of youth have joined the struggle spontaneously. In the absence of easy access to guns and hand grenades, this phenomenon first became apparent in the increased incidents of stonethrowing against the occupiers a few years ago. The next step was increased use of molotov cocktails.

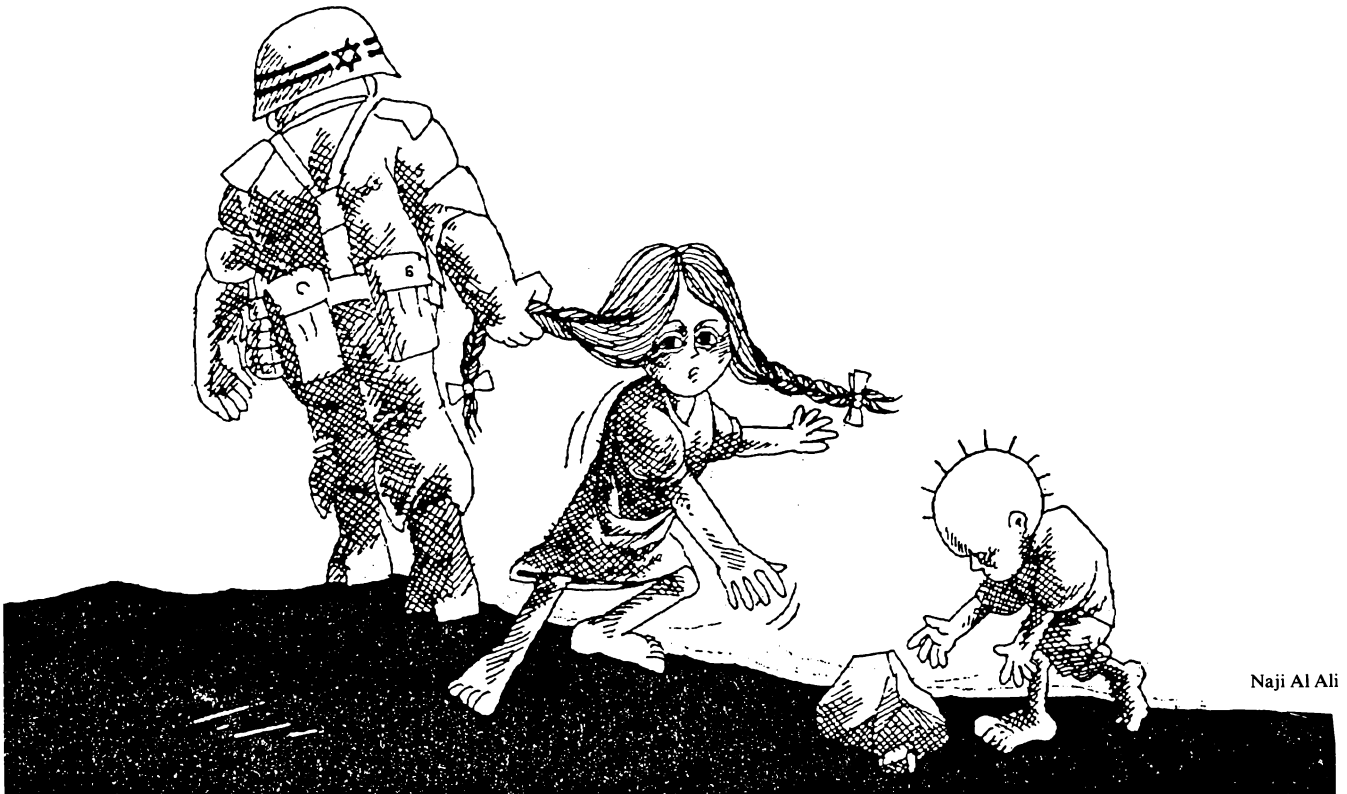
The Zionist newspaper *Maariv* commented on this, writing, «The Israeli army is unable to confront the phenomenon of Palestinians executing operations on their own.» *Maariv* noted that 58% of operations in 1986 were of this type. This phenomenon is the fruit of the continuance of occupation, showing that Zionist oppression does not kill the Palestinian will to struggle, but has the opposite effect.

In June, there were other examples of brave attacks using local resources, such as two stabbings and one instance of an unarmed attack on Zionist soldiers.

In another type of attack, PFLP militants burned two cars belonging to Hanna Seniora, editor of the Jerusalem, newspaper *Al Fajr*. This was intended as a warning to Seniora after he announced his intention to run for the municipal council of Jerusalem. This council is a totally Israeli affair, and Seniora's announcement broke a 20 year Palestinian boycott. Running for the municipal council has always been considered tantamount to recognizing the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem, which has been condemned by the UN.

JULY

In July, freedom fighters in occupied Palestine mounted 38 operations against the Zionist military forces, property and agents. As a result, five Israelis were killed and 24 injured. Sixteen Israeli vehicles, plus six motorcycles and a bus, were destroyed. Israeli sources estimated material losses to be in the millions of dollars.



Naji Al Ali