

tion in 1967, we had experience in both open and secret work. After the occupation, the same people from the villages, where we had gone to make meetings and classes, came to us saying: «You taught us - now what do you want us to do?» These women participated in the resistance to the new occupation in various ways. Those who had learned to type, typed statements against the occupation; others distributed these as handbills, etc. Some women visited the part of Palestine occupied in 1948, to gather information that could be useful to the resistance in planning anti-occupation actions.

## CONFRONTING OCCUPATION

In the first days after the 1967 occupation, one of the main things was to prevent emigration, for it was the Israeli plan to have as many Palestinians as possible leave, to empty the occupied territories. Every morning at 3 a.m. there were announcements over loudspeakers in Jerusalem that buses were waiting at the Damascus gate to take anyone who wanted to the bridges to Jordan free of charge. Of course, some people who had family members outside wanted to go to join them. We went to the Damascus Gate every day to talk to people, to tell them that this was an Israeli plan to get them to leave their homeland for good, and to try to dissuade them from leaving.

Another thing we did was to campaign against buying the Israeli goods which flooded into the markets with the occupation. Of course, we couldn't stop this from happening, but we used it as an opportunity to make the people more aware of how the enemy was working to dominate us and destroy our own social and economic structures. We tried to keep people from going to buy Israeli goods in the other part of Jerusalem and 1948 occupied Palestine. At the beginning, the people refused to deal with the Israelis. Later, with the economic restrictions put by the occupation authorities, they were obliged to do so. In the beginning, people tried to buy as much as possible in Jordan, then return to the West Bank illegally. Some of these people were shot by the Israelis. They fell into the river and we never saw them again. Whenever such things happened, we would spread the information to the people so that they knew as much as possible about the enemy's practices.

## TEACHER'S STRIKE

In the autumn after the June 1967 occupation, the Israelis tried to reopen the schools. The teachers went on strike because the Israelis were trying to replace them with less qualified teachers. We struggled with these new teachers not to accept the posts, and for four months, the strike continued. When it was over, many of the original teachers were unable to return to their jobs. We also mounted a campaign against the Israeli attempts to change the curriculum in the schools. (These changes consisted mainly of omitting certain chapters in schoolbooks about Palestine's history and geography.) We encouraged the people to refuse these changes and urged teachers not to follow them.

At the time of the strike, I was teaching mathematics and science at the UNRWA school in Shuafat, right outside Jerusalem. We were not allowed to be absent from work at the UNRWA schools, so we went each day for four hours, but did not go into the classrooms. Upon my suggestion, we teachers

sat and knit woolen pullovers for the fedayeen (freedom fighters). I had the job of standing at the door in the morning and explaining to the children that they should go home as we were on strike, protesting the occupation. One mother complained that I was preventing her child from going to school, and I was called in to the inspector's office. I said that it was a compliment to think that I was the one influencing all the other teachers to strike, for I was the youngest of them all. I explained that as a Palestinian, one could not be silent and let life go on as usual after the occupation. We had to make the parents understand that it wasn't because we didn't want to teach. In general, many of the UNRWA personnel were involved in anti-occupation activities. An inspector at another school carried weapons for operations in her car.

## SUPPORTING THE FEDAYEEN

The same year the Israelis occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the PFLP was formed from the ANM. We women who were organized met in the name of the GUPW. We met with women all over the West Bank, to plan how to support the fedayeen who were coming back across the borders into Palestine to fight the occupation. The Israelis issued new identity cards after the occupation. The fedayeen usually came without such ID cards, so they needed help with this. They needed help in moving about and safe places to stay, etc. For such work, we involved only organized people or friends who were very loyal and trustworthy. It was my job to contact people to see if they were willing to help by keeping someone in their house, providing clothes, etc. I went all over the West Bank, and every two weeks to the Gaza Strip, to coordinate with the comrades there.

I remember an old woman in Jerusalem. She had an empty apartment in her house because her sister had married and moved away. She opened it for our use. She learned how to move about, for example to deliver messages, without anyone noticing she was doing anything out of the ordinary. Once, a comrade who had been staying in her house was arrested. She immediately came to me to arrange for moving his things without anyone noticing. This showed she had begun to feel responsible for our work. She gave shelter to many fedayeen. This old woman also joined her neighbors in organizing protest demonstrations against the Israelis' demolition of Palestinian homes.

Women began to come to us, saying they were ready to transport things needed by the fedayeen. Once we wanted to move weapons from Ramallah to Jerusalem. We asked a woman who had offered to help, and we made arrangements with a taxi driver whom we knew and trusted. He agreed to take us and a big bag without knowing the contents, only that they should be kept secret. We drove and he stopped a bit away from the checkpoint where the Israelis were. The woman carried the bag on her shoulder and passed safely through the hills to the other side of the street.

One day we learned there had been a big battle between the fedayeen and the occupation forces in Beit Fariq village. Nine fedayeen had been killed; another managed to escape, but he was wanted. He informed the comrades in Jerusalem that he was in hiding and needed help. I sent two young women to get him. Actually the Israelis had entered the house where he was,