

Mass Resistance

September has been a month of massacres against the Palestinian people living in dispersion outside their homeland. Every year, Palestinians express their oneness in the face of attempts to liquidate their cause, highlighting that the real remedy against massacres is fulfillment of Palestinian rights to repatriation and statehood. This year, Palestinians living under occupation commemorated the 17th anniversary of Black September in Jordan, and the fifth anniversary of the Sabra-Shatila massacre in Lebanon.

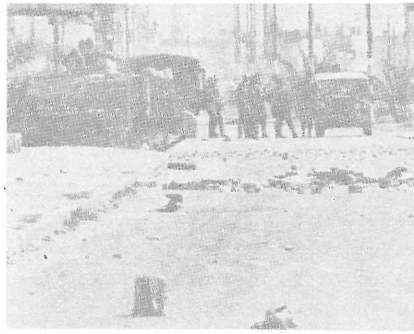
The masses challenged the Zionists' ban on Sabra-Shatila demonstrations. In Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Al Bireh, Nablus and Gaza, they took to the streets, raising Palestinian flags and shouting their condemnation of the occupation. In Balata refugee camp near Nablus, Zionist soldiers opened fire on the people, killing a child on September 15th. Several other civilians were injured in the ensuing days, and hundreds were arrested in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Galilee. Hebron University was ordered closed for two weeks.

The Sabra-Shatila commemoration reinforced the unity in struggle between Palestinians in the 1967 and 1948 occupied territories - a unity which had also been seen on September 1st, when West Bank and Gaza Strip residents joined the strike called by the Regional Committee of Arab Municipalities to protest the Zionist government's decision to reduce the educational budget for the Arab sector.

There were several other demonstrations during the month, and on September 7th, Bir Zeit University students suspended classes to mourn the martyrs of the Israeli attack on Ain Al Hilweh camp two days before, which killed over forty people. Also in September, there were hunger strikes by Palestinian political prisoners in Bir Al Saba, Tul-karm, Asqalan and Fara'a prisons.

THE OCTOBER UPRISING

The mass uprising was at a peak during October. Added to the ongoing



The occupation troops close the road to the Islamic University in Gaza.

Israeli occupation and oppression, three events played a role in raising the temperature of the October uprising: the killing of four Palestinian freedom fighters on October 7th, the October 11th attempt of Zionist extremists to storm Al Aqsa mosque, and US Secretary of State Schultz's visit to occupied Palestine. The occupation troops, for their part, used live ammunition to try and suppress the demonstrations.

On October 2nd, an Israeli military spokesman claimed that the occupation forces had shot and killed three Palestinians in Gaza for refusing to stop their car at a checkpoint outside Bureij refugee camp.

The statement came ten hours after the incident, the Zionists having imposed a total news blackout in the interim. On October 15th, three Israeli newspapers and the army radio carried reports that conflicted with the military spokesman's version of the incident. *Maariv*, *Yediot Ahronot* and *Haaretz* reported the men might have died after being tortured, before or after the incident at the roadblock. The brother and father of two of the martyrs were quoted by *Haaretz* as saying, «There were signs of torture» on two of the bodies, that one was missing an eye, and the other's face was disfigured. Some of the bullet wounds were in the front of the bodies, contradicting the army's account that they were shot as they fled. Israeli army radio identified one of the victims as an escapee from a Gaza prison, Mossbah Hassan Al Souiri, age 34, saying he might have been taken into custody and tortured.

As reported by the Palestinian Press Service, Bureij residents deny that there were roadblocks in the area that day. The agency noted that the army originally reported two Palestinians shot dead, then changed the figure to three later (Associated Press, October 19th).

PROTESTING MURDER

The masses' reaction was quick. On October 3rd, nearly 5,000 students of the Islamic University in Gaza went on strike, protesting the killings. The next day, demonstrations broke out in other places in the Gaza Strip.

On October 7th, a Palestinian commando group clashed with the Israeli occupation forces in Gaza. Four Palestinians were martyred, while an Israeli Shin Bet officer, identified as Victor Arguan, was killed. The occupation forces combed the area and arrested a large number of Palestinians. Angered by the new killings and arrests, the people of Gaza staged a general strike and demonstrations.

On October 9th, a court in Acca extended the administrative detention of four Palestinians for chanting nationalist songs!

On October 10th, 24 Palestinians were wounded in Gaza as demonstrations continued. Nearly 1,500 gathered in the city center and set tires ablaze, while most shops closed down. The Palestinian Press Service reported at least thirteen wounded during a demonstration at the Islamic University; many of them had to be treated on the spot, because the occupation troops blockaded the area and prevented the entry of ambulances.

AL AQSA DEFENDED

On October 11th, the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem, site of Al Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock, became the scene of a fierce confrontation between the Palestinian masses and the Israeli occupation forces, complementing the week-long uprising in the Gaza Strip. Zionist troops savagely dispersed a demonstration of nearly 2,000 Palestinians who were blocking the entry of two dozen