

commander of the middle area, Gen. Amram Mitzna and the head of the civil administration, Gen. Shimal Gorin asked the demonstrators to avoid engagements with the Zionist forces and said they would ask the army not to fire at Palestinians. By that time, Palestinian people in «Israel» took part in the uprising. Mass meetings took place in Nazareth and Oum al Fahem in support of the uprising.

On Dec. 17 th, Zionist forces under the mass resistance of our people in Gaza, were forced to withdraw their tanks. On that same day, the occupied Golan Heights had a mass demonstration in support of the uprising.

On Dec. 18 th, the uprising increased in momentum specifically after the announcement by the PLO that the following Monday 21 st would be the day of steadfastness for the Palestinian people. On that day, mayors of Arab cities and villages in «Israel» called for a general strike on Monday 21 st in support of the PLO call.

On Saturday Dec. 19 th, occupied Jerusalem saw the biggest wave of mass unrest since March 30 th 1976 (Land Day). The Palestinian people in Jerusalem attacked 4 Israeli banks and different Israeli vehicles and police stations. At the same time, the mass uprising continued with full force in the rest of the occupied territories.

On Monday Dec. 21 st, the day of steadfastness for the Palestinian people, 2 million Palestinians throughout occupied Palestine went on strike. The strike wasn't limited to the West Bank and Gaza but spread to the Galilee, Nazareth and Arab communities in Haifa, Jaffa, Lod, Ramleh and Acre. Confrontations also took place in these areas.

On Dec. 23 rd, the security council of the UN, under pressure of the mass uprising and broad international support, was forced to adopt a resolution condemning the Israeli practice, «which is considered a violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories». The resolution also condemned «opening fire by the Israeli army, which caused the death and injuries of unarmed Palestinian civilians».

ZIONIST REACTION TO THE UPRISING

Few weeks before the uprising, the president of the Zionist entity proudly said in Washington that the Arab-Israeli conflict did not represent a danger to peace in the Middle East and that the Palestinian cause doesn't have priority in the area. The validity of what Chaim Herzog said seemed true, specially after the Arab summit in Amman. But what took place during the uprising and what was seen on TVs worldwide proved that our people have the ability to revitalize the cause.

The oppressive Israeli reaction manifested the fear that our people caused within the Zionist society. A *Reuters* agency correspondent in a report about the uprising said, «the uprising reached an intensity that took the Israeli politicians and journalists by surprise. Some military leaders were forced to call through governmental radios their people to calm down because the army controls the situation».

The uprising caused confusion and disorder within the Zionist government. Prime minister Yitzak Shamir, one week after the beginning of the uprising sounded confident in saying, «it is temporary..., there is no need to carry any change in the current security policy for the areas». And he stressed that «the security forces have full control of the situation» (14.12.87). But one day after that, Zionist sources had to admit, that there is a war situation and Shamir threatened to close the West Bank and Gaza and to consider it a military zone. On



An Israeli soldier retreating from Palestinians in Gaza

Dec. 16 th Shamir condemned the Israeli public opinion for the defeatist position that it took. On Dec. 17 th, Shamir called upon his forces to avoid causing deaths because «every casualty turns into a human bomb against us». But in the same day he again said, «Israel is not concerned about more losses of lives». Chaim Bar-Lev, the minister of police announced, «we must work for a political solution as if terrorism didn't exist and we must strike terrorism as if a political process didn't exist».

Other sections within the Zionist society were forced to be more objective in analysing the situation. Yossi Serid, the Knesset member, said that what is taking place is civil disobedience and that there is an increasing Palestinian control over the camps and that the Israeli forces lost control of some of them. Azar Weizman, the state minister replied to Shamir's announcement and said, «who thinks that this is a temporary thing is making a big mistake». The Israeli historian Yahosha Boret was quoted saying in the *Jerusalem Post* of Dec. 14 th that «the events this time in the territories appear to be a beginning for a popular revolution because it seems as a mass movement that women and children participate in, in addition for being popular overt actions and not single incidents or secret operations carried out by terrorist cells». The *Ha'aretz* newspaper in an editorial on Dec. 16 th titled «Big mouth and slow brain» - referring to Shamir - said «he must decide whether it is a dangerous or a temporary situation because it can not be