

Letters

The letter below and our answer should have been published in the last issue of *Democratic Palestine*, but we ran short of space. Since then, we have received a new letter from the Seattle Center for Palestinian Information, telling that they did open their office on December 1, 1987 just in time to begin providing information in line with the increased interest in the Palestinian cause generated by the outbreak of the uprising in the occupied territories on December 8th.

Dear Friends,

In response to the recent State Department order to close the Palestine Information Office in Washington, D.C., we are opening the Seattle Center for Palestinian Information. This action, which is also in response to the «Anti-P.L.O-Terrorism Act of 1987», is a joint effort by Semitic Women Take Action (SEWTA, a group of Jewish and Arab women), Palestine Human Rights Campaign (PHRC), and the Seattle Nonviolent Action Group (SNAG). We have secured office space in the Oddfellows Hall on East Pine in Seattle, and our intent is to open on December 1, 1987, the latest date of the ordered closure of the office in D.C.

As you know, the Palestinian people, now more than ever, must have their voice heard by North Americans. The daily humiliation, suffering, repression, death by starvation and guns, the attempted genocide of the Palestinian people - this can only continue if the people of the United States remain ignorant of, and thus complicit in, this crime. As the suffering grows in magnitude each day, so does the attempt to portray Palestinians as «terrorists» and thus discredit any bit of truth that may slip through and be heard by people in the U.S. By opening the Seattle Center for Palestinian Information, we intend to counter this distorted and destructive stereotype. Our purpose is to make available a wide variety of information by and about the Palestinians, as well as serving as a center for organizing projects related to peace in the Middle East.

We need your help with this project. We would very much like to have your publication available in our office. We are in the process of fundraising... Please write to the above address, and let us know how you can help support this project. With your help, we will not let the Palestinians remain «The Forgotten People». Their voice WILL be heard in this country.

With Hope for Peace with Justice,
Seattle Center for
Palestine Information
P.O. Box 85289
Seattle, Washington, USA, 98145

October 24, 1987

from *Democratic Palestine*:

We send our best wishes and thanks to those who took initiative to establish the Seattle Center for Palestinian Information. Of course, we will provide some free copies of *Democratic Palestine* to the Center, and hope that others will support this effort however they can.

Editor's Note:

Every Day is Land Day

Just yesterday, the Palestinian people celebrated the Day of the Land. It was the 12th anniversary of the 1976 mass protests by Palestinians living under occupation since 1948, against Zionist land confiscation and racist discrimination. This year, the Day of the Land was marked by special circumstances. In the latest attempt to quell the current mass uprising which began in early December, the Zionist authorities imposed a virtual state of siege in occupied Palestine, according to a plan drawn up well in advance. For three days, the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were declared closed military areas and off-limits to the press. The Zionist authorities slapped a round-the-clock curfew on the entire Gaza Strip, while restricting West Bankers to their areas of residence. According to the Zionists' admissions, over 3,000 Palestinians from all parts of the occupied homeland had been rounded up in a 'preemptive' arrest campaign that began in mid-March.

Still, Land Day was marked by strikes, demonstrations and confrontations with the Zionist forces in all parts of Palestine; in a direct extension of the ongoing uprising. On Land Day itself, five Palestinians were martyred and over fifty injured when Zionist troops opened fire on the people. In the three days Gaza and the West Bank were sealed off, 705 Palestinians were administratively detained. The Zionists' declarations and action showed that they had intended to make Land Day the test of their ability to quell the mass uprising no matter what the cost. They did not, however, succeed. Like every year since 1976, Land Day was celebrated in occupied Palestine, and this time even more strongly, coming in the context of the continuing uprising. Thanks to the determination and creativity of the Palestinian masses under occupation, every day has become Land Day.

Saluting their struggle, we devote this issue of *Democratic Palestine* exclusively to the uprising which has become the most sustained mass battle waged in Palestine since the creation of the Zionist state.

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