

throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and between the two. At a certain time, the people in the Strip confront the enemy with full force while those in other areas may take a breather. At other times, Nablus and the surrounding villages carry the burden of all-out confrontation, while others rest, and so on. However, on Fridays, Sundays and specially designated occasions like the Day of Rage held on February 16th, all of Palestine explodes to shake the Zionist state.

Perhaps most threatening to the Zionists in the long term is that the Palestinian masses in the 1948 occupied territories involved themselves in the uprising. The general strike of December 21st, when West Bank and Gaza workers stayed away from jobs in 'Israel', was also observed by Palestinians in 'Israel' itself. Their participation caused Israeli Prime Minister Shamir to say that the strikes were «in conformity with the PLO... Israeli Arabs have to decide whether to follow

the PLO or remain faithful to Israeli laws.»

The mayor of the heroic Galilee village, Um Al Fahem, gave a clear answer to Shamir. In a telephone interview with *Al Hadaf* magazine, he said, «We in Um Al Fahem expressed our feelings with our people in the occupied territories by our unanimous participation in the general strike... and by our participation in the Popular Rescue Committee (formed to aid the uprising)... We are part of the Palestinian Arab people... Israel must recognize the Palestinian people's national rights, withdraw from the land and enter into negotiations with the sole, legitimate representative, the PLO, via an active international conference.»

On December 23rd, two weeks after the uprising began, 30,000 Palestinians demonstrated in Nazareth in response to the call of the Committee of Local Arab Councils, and Rakah (the Israeli Communist Party). Ibrahim Nimer

Hussein, mayor of Shafa Amr and head of the committee, told *Al Hadaf* in a telephone interview: «I say to our Palestinian brothers wherever they are, that we are one people with one destiny. United, we must confront our enemy. Here (in Palestine), we are united.»

Villagers in the Galilee and Triangle areas collected food and smuggled it to Palestinians suffering under curfew in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Progressive National Movement, the Sons of the Village and *Al Nahdha* (Renaissance) movement called for mass support to the uprising. On January 25th, 25 Palestinian students were arrested in Haifa after clashes with right-wing Israelis, which began because the students had painted Palestinian flags in schools. Three days later, in the Wadi Al Nisnas quarter of Haifa, leaflets supporting the PLO were distributed and there was a confrontation with the Israeli police, with one policeman being injured. The following day, Palestinians threw

Palestinian strike force in Nablus

