

leading the Zionist authorities to ban the entire Palestinian Youth Movement in the territories.

In the face of this popular unity, pro-Jordanian forces have been effectively silenced. The uprising has shifted the internal balance of power overwhelmingly in favor of those forces with

interests in ending the occupation. The development and continuation of the uprising shows that, with negligible exceptions, virtually the entire population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are ready to fight for their rights to self-determination and statehood.

# The Call of Al Qastal

Call no. 12 issued by the PLO/United National Leadership of the Uprising, April 2, 1988. Al Qastal was a battle where Palestinians resisted the Zionist forces in 1948.

People of heroism and great sacrifices, you who are writing the history of the Arab nation with your blood: Your blood has become like candles bringing light to the Arabs and dispersing the darkness prevailing in the Arab world... Daily your uprising is being stepped up, fed by your precious blood which waters the soil of the homeland. Your uprising is scoring significant victories and growing greater and greater. The victories attained each day are accumulating to pave the way for fulfilling the greater anticipated victories, first and foremost the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

In spite of the brutality and repression, you are courageously defying all the Zionists' military orders issued to suppress the uprising of the entire Palestinian people - children, women, elderly, and youth, who are using only their sacred stones and their growing anger at the occupation and its hirelings.

To our fighting people, the people of Al Qassam<sup>1</sup> and Abdul Qader Al Husseini,<sup>2</sup> the people of struggle and the offerers of great sacrifices: Your glorious uprising, your popular revolution has entered its fifth month. The Palestinian masses are confronting more than two-thirds of the Israeli occupation troops, backed by all the Zionist settlers who have been sent into the streets of our camps, villages and towns, to attack unarmed people. This powerful revolution cannot be uprooted or liquidated by the brutal policies of bone-breaking, mass killing, fascist acts of terror, mass detentions or economic siege, because hundreds of thousands of Palestinians all over the occupied homeland today announce that there will be no step backward; the revolution of the stones will not stop unless a Palestinian state is established.

Just as happened on Land Day, when two million Palestinians expressed their belonging to one united people, today they rise up united under the banner of the PLO, the banner of the United National Leadership, the banner of liberation and an independent state. In order to raise this banner over the hills of Jerusalem, the Palestinians of every town, village and camp rise up together to liberate their homeland.

You great people of Palestine, people of the PLO, people of the United National Leadership: Failing to extinguish the uprising by brutal acts of suppression and terror, the occupation authorities now resort to new methods. They spread false rumors and misleading statements, allegedly signed by the United National Leadership, in an attempt to undermine the uprising. Yet the United National Leadership is fully confident that our people are able to counter all these fabrications. Meanwhile, the United National Leadership stresses that it is an integral part of those who make the uprising, of the rebelling Palestinian people, of the martyrs who have lost their lives in the uprising, and of those who are ready to give their lives for the national aspiration of liberation. The United Leader-

ship stands for the youth and children who throw stones and molotovs, for the thousands of mothers whose pregnancies were aborted by the poisonous gas, or whose children and husbands were sent to the Nazi-like, Israeli jails, and for the thousands of peasants and workers who stopped working at Israeli settlements and instead stood firm to defend their villages, camps and towns against the brutality of the Zionist settlers and troops.

You masses of our sacrificing people; you mothers of martyrs, injured and detainees; to all Palestinian mothers: The rulers of the Zionist entity believe themselves able to abort the uprising and undermine our faith in victory by mass arrests and storming our houses by night. They do not know that our people are an inexhaustible spring of revolutionary struggle and that they are accustomed to tolerate jails for the sake of the homeland. No matter how much the oppression and fascist measures are escalated, no matter how many of the uprising's children and men are arrested, the Zionist authorities will not be able to put an end to this uprising. Today, our people stand together as a giant overcoming all Zionist brutality and claims, increasing the occupiers' dilemma and crises, and driving the Zionist soldiers to neurosis and shame. So, give as much as you can to your glorious uprising, for the dawn of liberation is breaking through the darkness of jails and torture, promising the achievement of an independent national state.

On the threshold of the fifth month of our glorious uprising, that coincides with the 40th anniversary of Al Qastal battle, the battle of heroism and sacrifice, and the anniversary of the death of Abdul Qader Al Husseini, the United National Leadership asserts the following:

- The United National Leadership denounces all attempts to block the holding of the Arab summit in the first half of April and calls for its convening as soon as possible in order to ensure support to the uprising in occupied Palestine. The United National Leadership affirms to the Arab kings and presidents that the Palestinian people do not seek money; they are ready to suffer hunger and poverty, but never to surrender. They are willing to die as martyrs, but not to give up their rights. They are determined to march forward to the glorious victory. Yet, the Palestinians demand the summit to show concrete adherence to its previous resolutions, namely the emphasis on the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state, under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. The summit is also requested to adhere to the call for an international peace conference with full authority and the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO, on an independent and equal footing. The summit is also called upon to close all Arab doors against the Schultz conspiracy which aims at liquidating the uprising. Such a step can