

important to work for our cause. This was the start of my commitment to my country and people, to fighting the occupation. My engagement in the national struggle led the occupation authorities to arrest me several times. I was first arrested on September 17, 1967, and detained for a hundred days. I was arrested again on February 26, 1969, and jailed for 15 years. Then I was put under administrative detention in January 1987, for 5 months, and arrested once more on December 27, 1987, then deported on January 13, 1988.

In fact, what one can conclude after the years of occupation is that there is no possibility for coexistence between us, the Palestinian people and liberation movement, and the Zionist entity. The conflict is one of existence, not borders. Being a lawyer, I joined the majority of Palestinian lawyers in boycotting the Zionist courts after the 1967 occupation. Our boycott had many reasons, chiefly denouncing the occupation, the annexation of East Jerusalem and forming what they called «unified Jerusalem,» the transfer of the appeal court from its headquarters in Jerusalem to Ramallah, the alteration of laws by implementing Zionist military laws and a number of other illegal acts. We considered that all of these acts violate the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949. The Palestinian lawyers' strike continued until my deportation in 1988. There are still about 350 Palestinian lawyers who do not appear before Zionist courts.

I was deported after my arrest on December 27, 1987, under brutal conditions. They raided and searched my house. They took me outside and searched me. Afterwards they chained my hands and feet, covered my eyes and put me in a truck. I was taken to the military command center. There I saw a line of the Zionist army's executioners waiting for me. They started hitting, kicking and swearing at me. After about six hours of this savage torture, they transferred me to Atlit military prison. This prison could easily be equated with a death camp. Every day from 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning until 12 midnight, we were under constant torture. Living conditions were so bad that even animals wouldn't be able to survive. After 6 days I was transferred to Jnaid prison in Nablus, together with other nationalist prisoners, such as Husam Khadr, Jibril Rojub and Jamal Jbara. There an officer came to us, presenting himself as the representative of the general commander in the West Bank. He read an order to deport us from Palestine, and demanded that we sign it. Of course, we refused. We all considered this order as a death sentence. He said that we could appear before a military consultative committee which would look into this order and approve it.

We contacted a number of lawyers, and after three days a team of lawyers came to defend us. Initially, we appeared before the court. The accusations consisted of two parts, stated and secret. The stated part didn't contain any accusation, but was rather a document of occurrences: that I was arrested in 1967; imprisoned in 1969 for 15 years and administratively detained for 5 months; that in 1970, the PFLP had demanded my release, along with others, when highjacking planes that had Zionists among the passengers. They considered this also as an accusation against me. They also said that in 1986 I was under town arrest, but I proved that they were lying. They also said that I was called to the military governor's office in Ramallah, and warned to stop my political activities. All this was false also. The rest of the file was secret, and they refused to reveal any part of it to me or the lawyers. I demanded that either they reveal the secret file, and if there were any accusations, I be

tried; or I would refuse to give them the honor of trying me, or of appearing before this military committee which doesn't have any power but certifying the decisions of the higher bodies. After they refused to reveal the secret file, I dismissed the 'defense lawyers' team and said that the committee had no legal basis and I wouldn't recognize it or its decisions. I assured them that we would come back to our land, either by hang-gliders or other operations. I had the opportunity to appeal, but I refused it, since I consider the Zionist court illegal and based on an illegal authority. I was not ready to give it legality by appearing.

What were the events that led up to the uprising?

The uprising was a result of a series of preceding events which can be summed up under one title, namely, the Zionist conspiracy against our people and the PLO. I want to name a few of these developments. One was the Zionist aggression against Islamic and Christian holy places under the pretext of searching for ancient Hebrew remains. The real reason was to empty Jerusalem in particular of its Arab inhabitants. In the process of searching for these remains, tools were used whose vibration cracked the surrounding buildings, especially in the Old City in Jerusalem. Thus, the real inhabitants of the area would be forced to evacuate, leaving it empty for the hoards of settlers to move in. Our people reacted sharply and started to confront these diggings in great numbers.

Another development concerned the appointed municipal councils. Before, there were elected mayors who represented the line of the PLO. The Zionist forces resorted to eliminating them and appointing collaborator-types to these posts. There was of course a political meaning behind such actions. The Zionists aimed at liquidating the pro-PLO trend and building an alternative in the occupied territories, so that they could use these people in conspiratorial projects in the future. Our people confronted this by mass demonstrations, particularly in the spring of 1982, when 23 Palestinians were martyred, hundreds injured and hundreds more arrested.

The third point was the new Zionist restrictions on construction in the Palestinian cities and villages aimed at keeping them from expanding. Thus the occupation forces would be able to confiscate the unused areas. There was mass denunciation of this project, in defense of the remaining Palestinian land. To stop this project, the masses confronted the Zionist

