

the girl had died from a bullet shot by the settler. However, to cover its own misguided 'justice', the army added that the guard had only shot wildly after being hit on the head by a Palestinian stone, even though he was notorious for previous indiscriminate violence.

The Beita affair is no exception in terms of Israeli brutality - this has been a constant fact of life for Palestinians under occupation for forty years. What is noteworthy is how the Zionists entangled themselves in their own lies and distortions. The current uprising and the international attention it has elicited leave little space for Zionist atrocities to go unnoticed as they did in the past.

## CHALLENGING THE ZIONIST REALITY

The Beita incident elicited new speculation in the international press about the moral integrity of the Israeli occupiers, escalating a tendency to such questioning which began with the uprising. It was in such an atmosphere that the Israelis celebrated their anniversary. In Cyprus, President George Vassiliou boycotted the Israeli 'In-

dependence Day' reception, citing his solidarity with the Palestinian uprising. In Holland, where the establishment is staunchly pro-Israeli, Premier Ruud Lubbers did attend such a celebration, but in an unprecedented move, he publicly criticized 'Israel' for opposing an international conference. The uprising has turned the tide of years of uncontested Zionist propaganda in the West. This is not without implications for the future of 'Israel' due to its high degree of dependency on outside support. While imperialist states, especially the USA, can be counted on to continue support to the Zionist state, based on strategic considerations, the public support to 'Israel', based on myths of Israeli democracy and providing a refuge for persecuted Jews, has begun to be eroded.

Important as international criticism of 'Israel' is, the basic arena in which the uprising is challenging the Zionist project is on the ground in Palestine. Each Zionist repressive measure has elicited a new form of Palestinian resistance. For example, after Rabin authorized soldiers to shoot to kill against firebombers, the United Na-

tional Leadership boldly declared a day of firebombing. The Palestinians are prepared to fight fire with fire to gain their freedom, even though their fire is stones and petrol bombs in the face of Israeli automatic weapons and cannons. This determination is having its effects on the Zionist army. Major General Uri Saguy, Israeli ground forces commander, has said that the army's deployment in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has «seriously harmed the soldier's basic level of training... Only if the uprising tapers off with the coming of summer will we be able to stabilize the training process for the regular army» (Associated Press, May 13th).

As a result of all these factors, the continuation of the uprising is bound to raise questions in the minds of more Israelis as to the viability of their colonial existence. In this sense, the uprising is the spark not only for broader Palestinian mobilization, but also for the Israeli population's possibility of eventually breaking with Zionism. And this is the threat for which the Zionist establishment has no counterammunition at all. ●

## Book Review

# *Israel: An Apartheid State*

By Dr. Uri Davis; Zed Books Limited, 1987

The first half of Uri Davis' latest book is devoted to expounding its title, *Israel: An Apartheid State*. Davis asserts that: «Formally speaking, the Israeli procedure of denationalization is far more radical and far-reaching than its South African equivalent... the majority of the inhabitants of the Republic of South Africa, its black people, are rendered aliens in their own homeland, but they are not defined out of legal existence. In the case of Israel, Zionist apartheid is applied under the category of 'Jew' versus 'non-Jew'. Of the almost three million non-Jewish Palestinian Arabs who are today entitled, under the constitutional stipulation of the 1947 UN Partition Plan, to Israeli citizenship, less than 25 per cent (approximately 700,000 persons) are Israeli citizens. Under the Absentee Property Law (1950), the state of Israel



has similarly denationalized 75 per cent of its non-Jewish Palestinian Arab inhabitants (over two million persons classified as 'absentees')» (p. 25-6).

Elaborating on this thesis, Davis reviews the political and legal mechanisms whereby 'Israel' confers on its Jewish citizens automatic access to national resources and services,

while excluding the Palestinian Arabs. Thus, Davis focuses on the character of the Israeli state and the part of Palestine occupied in 1948. While there are other excellent books on this subject, Sabri Jiryis' *The Arabs in Israel* (1976) being the pioneering work, Davis' book distinguishes itself as being extremely comprehensive, yet compact, in its analysis of these mechanisms.

Providing extensive documentation, including lengthy quotes from Israeli laws concerning citizenship and land ownership, Davis leads the reader through the intricacies of the Israeli system of institutionalized discrimination. He pinpoints the lynchpin which both institutionalizes and masks Zionist apartheid, namely, the «legislation ceding state sovereignty to organizations such as the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency which are