



Beir Zeit students commemorate a martyr of the uprising.

detention of children and youth at Ofra detention center, east of Jerusalem, and Dhahariya camp, also in the West Bank (see box).

Throughout June and early July, there were repeated confrontations between students and the occupation troops. On July 4th, the Unified National Student Movement in the Gaza Strip issued a call saluting the struggle of Palestinian teachers and pupils, demanding the release of all detained students and condemning the Zionists' disruption of education. The call also set out a series of student activities.

In the West Bank, clashes were especially intense in the Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron and Nablus areas. On several occasions, Israeli soldiers raided schools and beat students and teachers alike. On July 12th, when Nablus youth broke a curfew to demonstrate, Israeli helicopters fired on two schools. The biggest clash occurred on June 25th, when 200 soldiers surrounded Al Hussein school in Hebron to quell the large student protest against the demolition of a Palestinian home in a nearby village. (The house owner had been arrested on charges of stabbing an Israeli settler.) On this day, 25 students were treated for tear gas inhalation and beating, and 50 were detained.

Schools were again subject to closures especially after the June 15th general strike in solidarity with detained students, and again in mid-July, just before final exams were scheduled. These closures were mainly a vain attempt to stop the campaign of renaming the schools, proclaimed by the

United National Leadership of the Uprising. In many places, schools received new, revolutionary names. In Bethlehem alone, 12 schools were renamed, becoming the School of the Intifadeh, the School of the Palestinian Revolution, etc.

The July 21st Israeli announcement of the premature end of the school year was met by militant protests throughout the territories, converging with protests of Israeli atrocities against the citizens at large. In the second two weeks of July, seventeen Palestinians were killed by the occupation troops, the heaviest death toll since the April protests against the murder of Abu Jihad. The bulk of the martyrs in this round were 15-25 years of age.

As of this writing, the Zionist authorities are delaying the opening of the schools for the fall semester.

DUAL POWER POPULAR COMMITTEES BANNED

Parallel to the battle of the schools, battles have been raging between the masses and the occupiers in virtually all fields. Though suffering heavy casualties, the masses of the uprising have imposed a state of dual power in the occupied territories through their persistence and creativity. It was first and foremost this phenomenon that the Zionist authorities sought to erase when they banned the Palestinian popular committees on August 18th and specified a ten-year jail sentence for membership in them. In an act of desperation, the Israeli leadership has virtually prohibited Palestinians from

engaging in community organizing. The banning shows that even though the civil disobedience campaign is not total, it is sufficiently powerful to be deemed an intolerable threat to the occupation. In the strategic sense, the banning is part of the Zionist war against every seed of a future Palestinian state, a question which has been brought on the agenda of concrete possibilities by the uprising. In the tactical sense, this ban is intended to accomplish what murder, mass beatings and arrests, curfews and expulsions have failed to achieve, i.e., the end of the uprising.

The banning of the popular committees was preceded by a number of other attacks on Palestinian civilian institutions: the May banning of Shebib (the Palestinian youth movement); the June closure of the Society for the Preservation of the Family in El Bireh; the July 31st arrest of Mustafa Tawfiq Abu Zahara, head of the Jerusalem merchants' group, and of Feisal Husseini, head of the Arab Studies Center, and the closure of the center; the arrest of dozens of journalists, and bans on distribution of the Palestinian press, as happened with *Al Fajr* in early August, when it called for the resignation of the appointed West Bank mayors, in line with the calls of the United National Leadership. The banning of the popular committees was followed by the closure of the Trade Union Federation in Nablus, which groups 45 unions.

Most immediately, the bannings were the Israeli response to their failure to win the battle of tax collection and ID cards, i.e., their failure to break the civil disobedience and self-sufficiency campaigns.

THE WAR OF THE TAXES

The Israeli leadership had not anticipated that Palestinian merchants would form a pillar of the popular resistance. Accordingly, they planned their economic sanctions with a class bias, hoping some strata would succumb to immediate economic interests and drop out of the uprising. Merchants did quite the reverse; not only did they continue the commercial strike in accordance with the program of the United National Leadership; they joined with other businesses in refusal to pay taxes to the occupation. With revenues from the territories cut in half, the occupation troops launched a campaign of tax raids in July. At the same time, they extended into the West Bank