

Detention and Expulsion

Despite broad international condemnation, Israeli repression has not abated, even as the uprising has become an acknowledged permanent state of affairs. The fact that the Zionist authorities continue to escalate brutality against the masses, as the sole option for dealing with their resistance, leads to a single conclusion: The only way to end human rights violations in Palestine is to end the occupation.

The events of August in occupied Palestine vividly demonstrated the brutal measures employed by the occupation troops - mass beatings, detentions, killings, curfews and expulsions. Just as clearly, they showed that these methods, despite inflicting great suffering on the Palestinians, are essentially futile. Each Zionist attack is met by renewed mass struggle.

August 9th was a general strike day in the 1967 occupied territories, to mark the uprising's entering its 9th month. Israeli troops shot dead a 14-year-old in the West Bank, and injured many others. The same day, a Palestinian worker was burned to death and two others injured, when the construction shack they were staying in was set afire; one of the injured later died. A few days later, Palestinian political detainees in Ketziot (Ansar III) began a hunger strike protesting their subhuman conditions. Israeli troops opened fire, killing two detainees and wounding three others. Then, on August 18th, the Israeli authorities banned the popular committees, expelled four Palestinian patriots and issued expulsion orders for 25 more.

Demonstrations swept the occupied territories protesting these outrages. Facing the masses and further enraged by a successful fire bomb attack that injured seven Israelis in the Gaza Strip, the occupation troops piled up new statistics of death and injury. Each day in the second half of August, at least one Palestinian martyr fell under the soldiers' gunfire; most of the victims were young, including a 12-year-old boy and a 9-year-old girl. Two Palestinians died from teargas inhalation on August 23-4th in the Gaza Strip, one of them a 12-year-old girl. At least two were beaten to death, one in prison. Countless more were injured. On August 17th alone, 100 Palestinians were treated for beating injuries in Shifa hospital in Gaza. Hospital officials stated that 90% of the victims had been beaten in their homes by Israeli soldiers supposedly searching for stonethrowers. On August 22nd, seventeen Palestinians were wounded by Zionist gunfire in the Gaza Strip, while 70 suffered beatings or teargas inhalation. Meanwhile, the entire Gaza population lived under a round-the-clock curfew, as the Strip was closed

off to journalists and UN food convoys; six major areas of the West Bank were also under curfew. At the end of August, relief workers termed this the most difficult period since February, due to the extended curfews and large number of injured.

In the space available to us, it would be impossible to chronicle all the Israeli atrocities against Palestinians in this period. Below we concentrate on two aspects: expulsions and detentions.

ANSAR II, III, ETC.

Just as the first Ansar was spawned by the Zionist attempt to wipe out the PLO in Lebanon, so Ansar II arose from the aim of quelling mass resistance in the occupied Gaza Strip over the past few years. With the onset of the uprising, it was inevitable that Ansar III would be born in accordance with the Zionist dictum that it is illegal to be a Palestinian in Palestine, thus the need for concentration camps. On August 29th, Rabin stated that 18,000 had been arrested in the course of the uprising.

By singling out the two Ansars in occupied Palestine, we are not implying that Palestinian political prisoners receive anything like acceptable treatment in other Zionist jails where torture is systematic. But what is typical of these detention centers, as well as Al Fara'a and Dhahiriya in the occupied West Bank, is that they are under the control of the Zionist army rather than the prison administration. Thus, the detainees are not even formally guaranteed the rights specified in the Geneva Conventions, nor the minimal things for which Palestinian political prisoners have struggled for over a decade. Lawyers have even fewer legal straws to grasp at in trying to defend their clients, and most of the detainees at these centers have no lawyers at all, not to mention family or Red Cross visits. It is typical at such centers that the detainees are imprisoned without trial or knowing why they were arrested.

Keeping these centers with this status is obviously intentional on the part of the Zionist authorities, for it meets their need for preventive and group detention without fulfilling normal judicial requirements of presenting charges and evidence. Anita Vitullo, a free-lance journalist based in Jerusalem, recently wrote a book on Ansar II, in which she relates that due to this situation, Gazans regard deten-

Palestinians expelled to Lebanon on April 19th.

