

tion as a kind of «military kidnapping.» She further points out, «Once the practice of detaining youth indefinitely at an army camp is accepted, there is the danger that other Israeli army camps, and even settlements, could easily be turned into temporary prisons where, under the wide powers of the army and settler 'defense' forces, youth could disappear for days at a time without the family, Red Cross or lawyers being able to ascertain their whereabouts. Certainly there seems to be no logical reason for the persistence of irregular detention camps like Ansar II and Fara'a except as a way to extend the already considerable powers of Israeli military law.» Even before the uprising, there were reports that settlers and Shin Bet plainclothesmen were involved in arrests and beatings in Ansar II.

While detainees in Ansar II increased to about 800 with the advent of the uprising, Ansar III was established at Ketziot in the desert of the Negev (Naqab-South Palestine) to house the bulk of the new detainees, as mass arrests and administrative detention became the norm.

At least 10,000 Palestinians are

presently in Israeli jails. Roughly half of them were detained under the uprising. For the first time, the arrest of women has become widespread, with Palestinian lawyer Walid Fahoum estimating that 90 of 4,500 detained as of late July were women. About half the prisoners of the uprising are under administrative detention, whereas the pre-uprising average at any one time was fifty persons. This reflects how widespread the current Zionist detention policy is; even before the official banning of the popular committees, about 300 Palestinians had been arrested simply for membership in them.

In May, Knesset member Dedi Zucker of the Citizens Rights Movement revealed that one in eighty Palestinians over 16 years of age was in jail. A sample study of 330 prisoners showed that 15% were between 16-21 years of age; 58% between 21-30; 27% older than 30, while the oldest detainee was a man 75 years old. Of the prisoners, 35% were agricultural workers, 25% students, 6% professionals, 6 journalists, 7% skilled workers or technicians (and miscellaneous). Over half had previously been under administrative

detention.

Whereas since 1967, administrative detention had been applied to the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, under the impact of the uprising, the Zionist authorities have again resorted to imposing this on Palestinians living in the 1948 occupied territories. Four Palestinians of 1948-occupied Palestine were put under administrative detention in the first phase of the uprising. In the early summer, several more were put under six-months detention orders without trial; they were members of the Sons of the Village, suspected of setting fires in 'Israel'. On July 13, the respected patriot, Salah Baransi, head of the Palestinian Heritage Society in Taibeh, was put under six-months administrative detention.

The biggest single concentration of the prisoners of the uprising is at Ansar III; most have not been charged and about half are under administrative detention. It seems obvious that the site for this concentration camp was quite deliberately chosen for being far removed not only from the centers of the uprising, but from population centers in general, to keep the conditions there away from prying eyes. Also, the desert climate provides many opportunities for ongoing torture, as was evidenced by the appeal which the detainees managed to smuggle out in May (see box).

Testimonies of those released and lawyers' reports provide additional facts about the savage treatment and humiliation practiced by the Israeli army against Ansar III detainees. Most recently, a news conference was called in Jerusalem by the Israeli League for Civil and Human Rights which is chaired by Israel Shahak. A 16-year-old Palestinian testified how he had been forced to strip naked, cover himself with paint and stand in the sun for hours, before Israeli soldiers hit him with clubs to make the paint fall off, along with parts of his skin. The youth, Walid Sayfi of Jerusalem, said this was done because he stared at a guard; he testified that prisoners are regularly beaten and humiliated.

Shahak, himself a survivor of the Bergen Belsen concentration camp, also spoke, noting that «Some of the ordinary things done in Bergen Belsen were exactly what was done in Ansar III... Ansar III and others should be called Nazi-like concentration camps.»

THE TOLL OF ISRAELI HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

The Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights released the following statistics on Human Rights Violations under Israeli rule during the uprising, covering the period of December 9, 1987 to June 26, 1988.

DEATHS — TOTAL: 285

due to the occupation forces: 248

shot: 175

beaten / electrocuted: 17

teargassed: 55

due to settlers or collaborators: 16

under investigation or possible official responsibility: 21

SERIOUS INJURIES: 6,000

causing permanent damage and/or requiring long-term rehabilitation; 18,000 registered injuries treated in hospitals and clinics; 36,000 injuries requiring some kind of medical treatment (which might be treated locally by medical committees or medical personnel).

ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTIONS (new orders): 2,500 - official number given by the Israeli army in early June.

DEMOLITIONS AND SEALINGS: 144 (This figure includes both collective punishment and the demolition of unlicensed buildings.)

DISPLACED PERSONS: 1,500+

UPROOTING OF FRUIT AND OLIVE TREES: 30,000+ (in addition to other destruction of crops and settlers' destruction of trees and crops).

CURFEWS: «Curfews and area closures have been so frequently imposed during the uprising that our usual system of counting and documenting them has proved futile...»

Database Project Updates can be obtained from the Human Rights Research and Education Foundation, 1 Quincy Court, 1308, Chicago, Illinois 60604.