

Women have joined men in refusing to work in the territories occupied in 1948, in compliance with the UNL calls. Israeli sources state that the percentage of women boycotting work in Israeli factories and farms was higher than that of men. This is due to the new realities borne out of the intifada where women are obliged to stay at home, not only to take care of their children and homes, but also to cultivate the land and to encourage the self-sufficiency program.

THE SOCIAL FIELD

Women are participating in large numbers in the popular committees and the various special function committees, such as those for popular education, food provision, medical aid and supporting the families of the martyrs, injured and detained.

The social field is one of the most important arenas where the intifada has created a new system of social and moral values, based on cooperation, collective thinking and internal solidarity. Women's effective participation in the intifada has created new conditions for influencing the social attitudes of even the most traditional men. With the advent of self-sufficiency and home gardening, women have gained added respect for their work. Men have been obliged to help in the work of the home, resulting in more equal partnerships.

Naturally, it is the Palestinian women who have played a prominent role in the reduction of dowries and the costs of getting married, by promoting modest weddings and doing away with the luxuries which characterized Palestinian weddings in the past. Wedding celebrations have now turned into nationalist occasions with nationalist songs and popular dances.

STATISTICS

To further exemplify the prominent role of Palestinian women in the intifada, it is necessary to point to some important statistics. During the last 15 months, 70 Palestinian women have

been martyred, which constitutes almost 13% of the total of 545 martyrs. The age distribution of female martyrs is shown in the following table:

Number of Female Martyrs	Age
22	Under 15
28	15-49
20	Over 50
70	Total

These figures attest to the broad participation of Palestinian women in the intifada, while exposing the reality of Zionist terrorism against women, children and elderly, employing lethal bullets, poisonous gases, killings, beating until death, provocation, etc., as it clearly appears from the following:

Number	Cause of Martyrdom
33	Lethal bullets
28	Poisonous gas
3	Death induced by beating
3	Intentionally run down
3	Other
70	Total

Palestinian women are participating in the intifada in all areas, as is apparent in the following lists of where women were martyred:

Number	Area
40	West Bank
29	Gaza Strip
1	1948 Territories
70	Total

Number	Location
28	Camps
15	Cities
27	Villages
70	Total

Additionally, approximately 4,000 women have been injured, while 1,200

have suffered miscarriages due to violent confrontations and the Zionists' use of tear gas. Women constitute approximately 16% of the total number of injured, 33,000. (This figure does not include the many women who were treated on the spot for injuries.)

West Bank lawyers estimate that 40,000 Palestinians have been detained at one time or another in the first 15 months of the uprising. Among them are over 3,000 women. In recent months, 100 Palestinian women have been administratively detained, and 120 have been placed under house arrest. This is the first time the Zionist authorities have imposed these restrictions on women on a wide scale.

The broad participation of the Palestinian women in the intifada is a further confirmation of its revolutionary essence. This was also expressed in the calls of the United National Leadership for giving women their rights and considering March 8th as an official paid holiday. The Declaration of Independence issued by the 19th PNC clearly stipulated full equality of rights and «social justice, equality and non-discrimination in public rights... on grounds of race, religion, color or sex.» Appreciation of women and their role in the Palestinian struggle was reiterated in the political statement of the PNC.

Loyalty to the Palestinian women, their struggle and boundless sacrifices, demands of all the Palestinian revolutionary organizations to shoulder their responsibilities and take the necessary steps to enhance this role. This means giving maximum attention to the process of educating and mobilizing women, enabling them to be equal to men. It also entails providing women with the opportunity to attain leadership positions, raising their portion of representation in leading bodies in accordance with their active, militant role. Otherwise, continued talk about the women's role and equality will be only idle talk.

Let us give women their rights and honor their sacrifices and struggle.