

The Call of Confrontation

Text of Call no. 33 issued by the PLO/United National Leadership of the Intifada, January 24, 1989.

The Zionist enemy imagines that its new policy, which permits killing and using different kinds of lethal bullets, can succeed in facing up to the intifada, abating its flames and then stopping the great change which is occurring in the international position in favor of the Palestinian people and their leader, the PLO. The criminal occupation authorities think that escalating these measures will create the proper atmosphere in the State of Palestine, for reviving the so-called autonomy plan. We realize that the escalation of the repressive policy is an attempt by the Zionists to break out of their international isolation and the political dilemma caused by the intifada.

To the heroes of the war for national independence:

Long live your struggle which the Zionist military establishment remains incapable of suppressing. We salute the stones which have defeated the so-called invincible army. You, the masses of the intifada, are daily creating heroic images of struggle, demonstrating your high spirits and boundless ability to continue the struggle. However brutal the violence, repressive measures will not prevent you from continuing the intifada until the achievement of the national goals. However much the pressure increases, you will inevitably foil all new conspiracies, first and foremost, imposed political elections (the new Israeli proposal); just as you foiled the preceding conspiracies of civil administration, autonomy, improved autonomy, the Camp David accords, the Reagan plan, the Shultz initiative, the Jordanian option, the condominium plan (Joint Israeli-Jordanian administration), «saving what can be saved» (King Hussein's motto) and «improving the quality of life.» You will send all these to the rubbish pile of history.

To the masses of the heroic intifada:

Escalate your struggle and determination in order to achieve our goals. Let us declare loudly to the world: We will not give up the struggle to gather our people, from all places of exile, in the homeland; we will not surrender our right of self-determination or any of our just national rights; we will not retreat from efforts to attain a just and lasting peace in the area, via a fully empowered international conference where the PLO participates in an independent delegation on an equal footing with other parties. We will not neglect the martyrs' blood, the groans of the wounded or the tears of the mothers who have been bereaved of their children. Our people's sacrifices have only one aim which is the attainment of freedom, independence and national sovereignty over the soil of our sacred homeland. As we renew the pledge to continue the struggle - whatever the sacrifices - and declare that the repressive measures will not terrify us, we call on the international community to shoulder its responsibility for providing international protection for our people, from the crimes of the occupation army. We call on the UN Security Council and other international bodies to insure protection for our heroic people who are steadfast on their national soil.

To the masses of our heroic people:

The PLO's militant arm in the State of Palestine, the United National Leadership, calls on you to carry out the following:

- Merchants should act in a spirit of cooperation with our people and their suffering, and refrain from exploitation and raising prices. We confirm that the people and popular committees, as well as the strike forces, will not hesitate to hold accountable anyone who toys with the people's food or betrays them. We call on money changers not to toy with the prices of currency, as this would harm our people.
- We confirm the war on Zionist products and call on dealers to stop distributing them especially those which are superfluous or for which there is a local substitute.
- We confirm the continuation of the tax boycott... We call on the strike forces to increase their activity in the cities, villages and camps, effectively confronting the Zionist tax collectors who suck our people's blood.
- The owners of national factories, workshops and institutions should raise the wages of workers and employees in line with the devaluation of the (Jordanian) dinar and the new wave of price rises; the increase should not be less than 40%. We call on the committees and trade and professional unions to act earnestly to implement this.
- We call on academics and teachers... to devote their time to studies that will contribute to developing educational curricula with a Palestinian national character,... to encourage and participate in popular education and to form national educational bodies in every city, village and camp for this purpose. This will thwart the occupation authorities' policy for making our students ignorant by ordering the collective closure of schools, universities and institutions.

Be alert to the attempts by agents to plant confusion and division in our people's ranks by threatening honest citizens' lives and property at night. We call on the masses to activate the guarding committees in order to thwart the acts of the enemies of the people. The strike forces should teach them a lesson. The masses should be alert to suspicious calls and lies, and adhere to the calls of the United National Leadership, the sole leading body of the intifada in the State of Palestine.

- Stay away from the suspicious meetings and parties called by the civil administration and the instruments of the occupation. Attending such gatherings is considered a violation against the masses of the intifada and the national consensus.
- Continue to establish the institutions of the Palestinian state by completing the unification of all professional and mass sectors. In this respect, we greatly appreciate the unity of the writers' union, since such unity is one of the goals of our people's intifada.
- We call on world public opinion, and on Israeli democrats and progressives, to do their civilized, human duty towards the Palestinian Arab people, to prevent barbaric practices against the detained Palestinian freedom fighters and to keep the detention centers from becoming death camps like those of the