

tifada have also found time to hold cultural events, such as a major exhibition of paintings in December, and folklore evenings in Al Hakawati theater in Jerusalem. The reunification of the Union of Palestinian Writers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, announced January 13th, will surely contribute to increasing cultural efforts, in addition to strengthening the drive to close the remaining gaps in national unity. A major step in this direction had already occurred on December 8th, with the declaration of a coordinating committee for all the women's organizations in the occupied territories, putting women on the forefront of efforts to unite the popular organizations.

1948 OCCUPIED PALESTINE

Events in the part of Palestine occupied in 1948 have also served to assert the Palestinian cause. Palestinians here have intertwined their historical struggle against national oppression with their struggle to support the intifada. The Israeli authorities pointedly warned them against celebrating the Declaration of Independence, fearing reenactment of the December 21, 1987 nation-wide strike. Nevertheless, there was a strike in the 1948 occupied territories at this time, protesting the demolition of 15 houses in Taibeh, and reports that the Zionist authorities intended to demolish 50 homes in Um Al Fahm.

Though less than the intifada in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the struggle of the Palestinians in the Zionist state is at a level which alarms the occupation authorities, as has been seen in increasing repression in the Galilee where special patrols harass and beat villagers. This reached absurd proportions in early February, when police broke into a Nazareth elementary school and arrested an 11-year old who had drawn a Palestinian flag on his ruler; five other youngsters were also arrested, as was the principal when he tried to protest the arrests. In the same period, the village of Dabborya was besieged by the police and border guards who made arrests after discovering that slogans signed by the PLO were written on walls, and the cars of four collaborators had been burned.

Moreover, Israeli radio has several times reported the arrest of «terrorist cells» involving cooperation between Palestinians of the 1967 and 1948 occupied areas - something which they appear to be very concerned about. In the same period, the occupation authorities have been faced by demonstrations in the occupied Golan Heights - one celebrating the first anniversary of the intifada, and the other protesting on the seventh anniversary of the annexation of the Syrian Heights.

Aside from harassing the people at large, Zionist repression has concentrated on two targets in particular: the Sons of the Village, and the municipal and village councils where the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (DFPE) and Rakah (the Israeli Communist Party) hold the majority of seats.

In mid-January, Israeli police broke up a song festival in Sakhnin, sponsored by the Sons of the Village, where 700 Palestinians had gathered in support of the uprising; 11 were arrested, including three of the singers. On January 15th, the editor of the Sons of the Village newspaper, *Al Raya (The Banner)*, was summoned by the Israeli district commander and informed of the authorities' intention to revoke the paper's license, due to alleged connections to the PFLP. *Al Raya* has consistently and militantly called for Palestinians in the Zionist state to be more active in supporting the intifada, which is the most likely reason for its being singled out at this particular time. On February 4th, a rally was held in Nazareth, to protest the planned closure. The paper was closed in early March.

The other prong of the Israeli attack on political forces concerned the February 28th municipal elections. Prior to their being held, the Zionist authorities escalated their campaign to deprive Palestinians of independent national representation and empowerment, using a variety of 'legal' devices. An Interior Ministry plan was approved to dissolve the councils of four villages and merge them with Israeli-controlled councils. Significantly, all four councils were controlled by the DFPE or Rakah. Then, on January

23rd, the mayor of one of these villages, Jdayda, was arrested on trumped up charges of fraud. Two weeks before the elections, a bill was brought to the Israeli Knesset to bar former «security prisoners» from running for office, because it was found that three candidates had previously served time in Israeli jails for nationalist activities, and been released in 1985.

A less publicized struggle highlights the impossibility of reconciling Zionist principles with any kind of justice or equality. On January 11th, there was a joint demonstration of democratic Jewish and Palestinian Arab students at Tel Aviv University, under the slogan: «No to Apartheid» in protest of a decision to segregate dormitories on the basis of students being Jewish or not. An Israeli court upheld the decision, and Palestinian students were moved from dormitories which should receive Jewish students coming from abroad. The reason behind all this was the Israeli-Jewish Agency rule governing such incoming students who should experience living with other Jews - not with Palestinians.

The real background for the increased Zionist repression is the Israeli authorities' concern about their own failure to create the «pure Jewish state» to which they aspire. At a time when the intifada has shown the unviability of the 1967 occupation, any display of nationalism from Palestinians in the Zionist state shows that the problem really is, as Shomron said, «at home.» Statistics show that the number of Jews living in the Galilee has dropped by ten per cent over the past ten years. This was the decade that should have witnessed the opposite trend, in accordance with the Judaization plan adopted by the Israeli government in the wake of the 1976 Day of the Land's reassertion of Palestinian nationalism. This is one of many signs that, in the long-run, the Zionists are fighting a losing battle.

In addition to our own sources and the quoted news reports, our main source for the article was *Uprising Update: December 8, 1989*, published by the Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights, and the weekly English editions of *Al Fajr*, January 2nd-February 20th.