

Solidarity Conference in Athens

On February 5th and 6th, the International Committee of Artists and Intellectuals for the Support of the Uprising and the Struggle of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Territories held an international working meeting of lawyers and women in Athens, Greece. Over 45 invited participants spoke and offered concrete suggestions on ways and means of support for the intifada. The speakers, who were primarily from the Arab world and Europe, included actresses, writers, professors, artists, cultural workers, journalists, lawyers and representatives from women's organizations.

The focus of the conference was the legal aspect of the occupation and international violations by Israel, while the second day concentrated on women and children in the intifada. Participants provided statistics and some first-hand descriptions of life under the occupation. Five Palestinians from the 1967 occupied territories and four from the territories occupied in 1948 attended the conference.

Among the prominent speakers were

Um Jihad (Intissar Al Wazir); Issam Abdel Hadi, President of the Union of Palestinian Women; Yahya Yakhlef, PLO Cultural Director; Fuad Bitar, PLO Representative in Greece; Mirjam Vire-Tuomien, General Secretary of the Women's International Democratic Federation; Naziha Mazhoud, President of the Union of Tunisian Women; Omar El Hamdi, president of the National Council of Arab Culture; and Jean-Marie Lambert, the Executive Director of the International Coordinating Committee of NGO's on the Question of Palestine.

The first session was opened by K. Kazokas, the president of the Panhellenic Cultural Movement, a main organizer of the conference. A telegram from Yasir Arafat, greeting the conference, was read by the Head of the Diplomatic Mission of the PLO in Athens. The lawyers spoke about the fact that legally occupation is a temporary state and that it is essential that people be independent and have the right to self-determination. They called the intifada a heroic revolution and not terrorist. They said, «The present con-

ditions in the occupied territories represent a violation of all human rights prevailing in civilized societies. Their final statement listed seven suggestions:

(1) publicizing the Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights in terms of violations of life, expulsions, house demolitions, curfews, collective punishment, administrative detention, the closure of schools, imposing taxation, and cutting off electricity, water and communications.

(2) pressuring Israel to stop these violations and recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and an independent state on Palestinian land under the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

(3) an appeal to the international community to support the Palestinian intifada on all possible levels.

(4) to call for temporary UN supervision in the occupied territories to facilitate the withdrawal of the occupation troops and to protect the Palestinian masses.

(5) to appeal to the international com-

Speakers panel at opening session

