

situation is different vis-a-vis its internal security. Participation in the intifada by Palestinians living in the Zionist state has mainly been in the form of support to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Despite this, or maybe because of it, the activities of Palestinians living in Israel have been regarded with the utmost suspicion by the Israel authorities.

According to the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem (1985), only 10 to 20 Palestinians in Israel have acted against the state or its security each year since 1948. Yet, after the December 21, 1987 general strike, the first all-Palestine action since the 1936-39 revolt, Likud MK Kaufman proposed reimposing military rule on them. There was a similar general strike on March 30, 1988, but more disturbing was the fact that in the 1988 elections, Zionist parties received the lowest ever percentage of the Palestinian Arab vote. *Al Hamishmar*, June 2, 1989, quoted an MK's figures that «Israeli Arabs» were involved in over 1,000 nationally motivated «attacks» since December 1987 (a figure that may include throwing stones and raising the Palestinian flag). Most damaging were the acts of arson which, in view

of the arrests made, seem to be regarded by the Israeli authorities as cooperation linking Palestinians from the 1967 occupied territories with those of the 1948 occupied land. In 1988, 38,000 acres of Israeli-confiscated land were burned (as opposed to 3,000 acres in 1986). This method of struggle has continued with 20,000 acres burned in the nine months of 1989.

In 1988, the Israeli police formed a special unit to «handle riots in the Arab sector» (*Al Fajr*, July 24, 1989). On May 3, 1989, the cabinet held a special debate on «the condition of Arabs in Israel and the impact of the intifada on them» (*Al Fajr*, May 8, 1989), as scores were being arrested in the Galilee and Triangle for having expressed support to the intifada via leaflets, fundraising or demonstrations. At the meeting, Yitzhak Modai, minister without portfolio, said he didn't see a «separation between the Arabs in Israel and the Arabs in the territories,» remarking that the police cannot enter some Arab villages (in Israel). Also in May 1989, the Knesset gave preliminary approval to a new «anti-terrorist» law making it an offense to receive material donations from «terror organizations» and ►

