

PFLP and Hamas as part of the UNL's longstanding attempts to draw Hamas into the organization, the assertion that the Front is going to withdraw from the UNL is absurd. Although differences of opinion have been expressed concerning the political line of the UNL and practical action in the occupied territories, the PFLP has strongly reaffirmed the need for national unity and the continuation of democratic dialogue within the UNL. All liberation movements experience varying degrees of internal disagreement, as this is a natural and necessary part of the revolutionary process. That this occurs within the UNL is thus a normal phenomenon and, in fact, speaks for its democratic nature. Thus, official Israeli postulations that the PFLP is going to split from the UNL are clear attempts to drive a wedge between the two.

Accompanying the false rumors of disunity was intensified repression against the Palestinian population. The West Bank town of Beit Furik near Nablus was under curfew for 11 days in mid-March as thousands of soldiers, using helicopters, besieged the village. The army arrested hundreds of people and conducted tax raids on homes in a fashion reminiscent of Beit Sahour. The repression came in response to an escalation of the intifada in recent months. Women

demonstrators numbering in the hundreds marked International Women's Day with demonstrations throughout the occupied territories. In Jerusalem, 150 women carrying Palestinian flags were attacked by Israeli police and border guards firing rubber bullets and tear gas. In Tulkarm, women demonstrators attacked military patrols with stones and bottles (*Al Fajr*, March 12th). On Land Day there were large-scale demonstrations in both the 1948 and 1967 occupied territories. In Taibe, violent confrontations took place with the police, resulting in the injury of several policemen and the arrest of many Palestinians. Demonstrations took place in every major city in the West Bank, despite the massing of extra troops. All of Gaza was under curfew for the third time this year, but this did not deter Gazans from staging demonstrations on this important Palestinian national holiday.

There was a marked rise in collaborator violence in January, according to the Palestinian Human Rights Information Center's report for January '90. In Kufr Salem, armed masked men, taking over the usual role of the security forces, attacked the home of a wanted youth who managed to escape. In Zawiyeh village near Tulkarm, the local mukhtar, who is a well-known col-

laborator, opened fire on residents when he was stoned, injuring a young woman. In the most serious attack which occurred in Shweikh near Tulkarm, a known activist was kidnapped by masked men posing as members of a local strike force. His mutilated body was found several days later. Villagers and nationalist groups believe he was killed by collaborators or security forces.

In addition to violent attacks by the occupation forces, other forms of pressure were tried recently against the Palestinians. In January, the Israeli Transportation Ministry tried to intimidate East Jerusalem bus drivers into not participating in general strikes called by the UNL. The ministry sent a letter to the bus companies threatening to revoke their licenses if they continued to strike. Despite the threat, buses did not operate during the general strike called on January 9th and, in defiance of a second threat, on January 17th (PHRIC January report).

Further violent and political attacks notwithstanding, Palestinians continue to stand firm against Israeli attempts to crush the uprising. As yet another intifada spring begins in the occupied territories, the masses can take pride in several consequential achievements of the past few months. ●

*Palestinian arrested in Taibe on Land Day*

