

Response to the Program for Unity and Democratic Reform

In mid-October, the PFLP-DFLP Joint Leadership presented the Program for Unity and Democratic Reform in the PLO (see PFLP Bulletin no. 69 for the full text). The intention was for this program to find its way into every Palestinian home to elicit discussion and crystallize a broad mass force for resolving the internal Palestinian crisis in the interests of continuing the revolution. Since then, the PFLP's weekly magazine *Al Hadaf* has been conducting opinion surveys among the Palestinian community in different countries. Below we print the preliminary results in the form of examples of responses to the program received by early December.

Occupied Palestine

*Bassam Shakaa,
elected mayor of Nablus*

"Preserving the PLO and its unity is a guarantee to our people and our nation, and also a guarantee for keeping peace in the world. The Arabs have to face this fact with deep thinking; there is no Arab affiliation without PLO unity. Any reforms have to be achieved in the legal frameworks, and we must work quickly to stop the disintegration of the PLO now taking place, and to strengthen our organization to continue carrying out its mission and prevent external interference from affecting its achievements."

*Karim Khalaf,
elected mayor of
Ramallah*

"The program is a good one as a basis for democratic dialogue, for true reform in the PLO and its institutions, removed from fighting among brothers...What I hope is that everyone is liable to this program and works for its application in order to preserve the PLO's unity and protect our people's cause from the dangers now threatening it with containment, liquidation, or disintegration. I appeal to all PLO Executive Committee members and to all others to exert all efforts to maintain

the unity of the PLO and its leadership. We should all be aware of the conspiracy that now aims at liquidating our people's cause."

*Ibrahim Tawil,
elected mayor of
Al Bireh*

"We are for the program as the basis for constructive democratic dialogue. We are against tutelage from any side. We are for democratic discussions; our people are known for their democratic thinking and principles. We call on everyone to sit together for agreement around the table of the people, the table of the revolution, of unity and of dialogue, on the basis of the program presented by the PFLP and DFLP, and accepted by Fatah."

*Mustafa Natshe,
acting mayor of Al Khalil*

"The program for reform and unity presented to Fatah by the PFLP and DFLP is a constructive step towards our people's unity on a democratic basis. We appeal to our protesting brothers to follow democratic procedures within the PLO institutions in order to fulfill their demands, and to put guns aside...If their demands are genuine and they are for reform, then let them sit with their brothers, focusing on this program in order to enact the desired

unity and reform, and achieve the aims of our nation and people."

*Wahid Hamdallah,
elected mayor of Anabta*

"Our people in the occupied territories blessed the program for unity and democratic reform submitted by the Joint Leadership. They support it, for this courageous and independent Palestinian program expresses the demands and will of our Palestinian people everywhere."

*Haj Amin Nasr,
elected mayor of Qalqilia*

"We believe that this program would surely remedy the situation and secure all the demands of the protesters. They have to sustain this program and walk together in the framework of Palestinian national unity."

Lebanon

The following cable was addressed to the General Commander, the General Secretaries of all Palestinian organizations and the PLO Executive Committee members:

"In the name of the Popular Committee of Baddawi Camp, we send you our salutations. At this difficult time, when our revolution is subject to many dangers, of being contained, liquidated or split, we ask you to confirm the reform program presented by the PFLP-DFLP Joint Leadership and to arrange for the implementation of this program, for its contents represent a genuine guarantee for the continuity of our revolution and democratic reform in the Palestinian arena. The application of this program will guarantee and strengthen the unity of the PLO, our independent decision and our national legitimacy..."

The Popular Committee,
Baddawi Camp
North Lebanon,

Damascus

*Khaled Fahoum,
Chairman of the Palestinian National Council*

"In the prevailing crisis experienced by the Palestinian revolution, many programs and solutions have been suggested. The first program was suggested by the Central Council delegation. Then the Joint Leadership of the PFLP and DFLP presented a detailed program for democratic reform. I consider this a very good program, but it needs everybody's efforts to put it into practice. It is not enough to present a program. We all have to cooperate in order to achieve the application of this program. I believe that as the demands for reform increase, so does our confidence in the high degree of awareness of our people."

*Mahmoud Khalidi,
director of the PLO office in Damascus*

"I read this document carefully and have a high estimation of its contents. It reflects a high degree of awareness and concern for the unity of the revolution, for the independent Palestinian decision and for the need for democratic dialogue and democratic reform through legitimate PLO institutions, and for saving the PLO and its active role."

*Um Sabri,
member of the General Secretariat of the General Union of Palestinian Women*

"It is a good program in terms of the points it tackles. We would have hoped that the comrades in the PFLP and DFLP had been able to apply such a program prior to the fighting now taking place in North Lebanon. We realize how much these two organizations influence the Palestinian struggle. We highly evaluate this program and