



Palestinian fighters in Lebanon

Armed and Mass Struggle

Interview with Comrade Abu Ahmed Fuad, member of the PFLP Politbureau, responsible for the military department.

What were the aims of the recent military operations in occupied Palestine? How do they correspond to the level of mass resistance?

We in PFLP have a political, organizational and military strategy. Our military operations aim to implement our political and organizational strategy, in short, the liberation of Palestine. Since the 1967 war, we have been practicing political and military activities to achieve our political goals. Indeed, military operations are inseparable from the political and mass work. This is why we mobilize our masses to join the ranks of the military forces.

We are convinced that liberation will be achieved through protracted armed struggle, but we also assign high priority to other aspects of the struggle, as they complement each other. Our masses in occupied Palestine fight occupation by throwing stones and by all the humble means in their possession. This is obviously an expression of their resistance. For us and for all peoples who struggle for national liberation, armed struggle is the main method. Without it, we cannot liberate our occupied homeland from Zionism.

We put our main efforts into escalating the military and mass work inside occupied Palestine. Efforts from outside are helpful, but not the essential factor. The recent operations are simply implementations of this line. The April 2nd operation in Jerusalem, carried out by comrades of the DFLP, led to positive results on the mass level: It raised our people's morale. Also the PFLP's April 12th bus operation from Askelon to Rafah in the Gaza Strip was the implementation of our military line which is based on continuously striking the enemy forces. The accumulation of small strikes enables us from time to time to deal qualitative blows to the enemy.

This escalation of military operations emphasizes the positive, concrete alternative to the deviating line now being followed by Arafat. It serves to dispell the air of defeatism being

used by vacillating elements to justify their acceptance of the US imperialist solutions to the conflict. It serves warning to traitors who aspire to illusory gains through collaboration with the enemy forces. The escalation of our armed struggle will complicate the efforts to impose any settlement at the expense of the Palestinian people's rights. King Hussein of Jordan, for example, cannot speak on our behalf as long as there is a strong Palestinian voice making itself heard on the ground.

The aim of the recent operations was not to kill civilians, but to free our comrades in Zionist jails, some of whom have been imprisoned for over 15 years and exposed to all sorts of torture. Nobody is released from these jails without permanent disabilities. Some were martyred in the prisons due to torture or deliberate negligence.

When we tried to liberate our prisoners, the Zionist leaders ignored every consideration for human life. They forced their way into the bus, thereby killing or injuring a number of the passengers, and killing two of our comrades. Our other two comrades, who were captured, were killed a few hours later. This proves that our enemy uses Nazi methods. There are many other recent proofs of the enemy's crimes from Sabra-Shatila to the South of Lebanon, such as the recent murders in Ain al Hilweh.

The bourgeois media often presents military operations as the reason for Zionist repression against the Palestinian people. What is your comment to this?

The Zionists have continuously oppressed our people and committed all sorts of crimes against them. This is their strategy for crushing our revolution and people, as has been practiced since the creation of the Zionist entity through massacres and terrorism. Thus, the military operations are not the reason for the Zionists' repression, as this is their strategy.