

Zionist 'Justice' - Election Tactics

Why the terrorist establishment cracked down on its own death squads...

In July 1980, the attempted assassination of mayors Ibrahim Tawil, Bassam Shakaa and Karim Khalaf resulted in serious disabilities for the latter two. Since then Palestinian residents, especially in the West Bank, have been accosted by wave after wave of terrorist attacks officially attributed to eccentrics. The few perpetrators brought to trial were ones who could be discounted as fringe elements or deranged, while terror escalated under the pseudonym of TNT, a supposedly unknown group.

It is well-known why the crimes against our people remained unresolved. Quite simply, their aim of inducing a mass exodus of Palestinians is Israeli state policy. Only recently, Prime Minister Shamir spoke of «a land of Israeli free of foreigners». The criminals were just doing their job of clearing the land as good Zionist settlers have always done in one way or another. Accordingly, settler terrorism enjoyed support in the highest echelons, with arms, logistics and protection coming from the IDF, intelligence officers and government officials. Recently, this official encouragement was made explicit by Science and Development Minister Yuval Neeman. Speaking on Israeli radio, May 9th, he said of the 1980 attack on the mayors: «in total, it had a positive effect...paralyzed the main instigators...»

Official involvement has been amply confirmed by the details released in connection with the arrests that began late in April and resulted in the indictment of 27 Israelis associated with the assassination attempt on the mayors, the July 1983 murder of students at Al Khalil (Hebron) University, planting bombs in mosques and buses, etc. The indicted are residents of settlements in the 1967 occupied territories. Unlike the Israelis arrested earlier, they are not mainly affiliated to Kahane's KACH movement which openly advocates «All Arabs out!» and which 'respectable' Zionists call fanatics. No, those newly arrested are the type of Gush Emunim, the Likud's favored settler movement. They include decorated war «heros», at least two senior army officers, a retired police officer, a mayor in the so-called civil administration of the West Bank, a former deputy military governor for a region of the West Bank and a senior air force officer. Shin Bet investigations revealed a sophisticated organizational network. The arms caches «suddenly discovered» were stocked with weapons of IDF issue, from the one at Lifta, near Jerusalem, to that at Kiryat Arba which consisted of weapons given to the settlers for a regional defense program and then reported missing.

It has also been officially confirmed that the authorities have known the identity of these terrorists for at least a year and that many have been under surveillance (but of course not prevented from their anti-Palestinian terror). Israeli police offic-

ers have confirmed that in some cases the intelligence had ordered a halt to investigations. Why then did the Israeli authorities finally crack down on their partners in terrorism?

«The Jewish underground» - a political football in the Zionist elections

We can automatically discount that the arrests of Zionist terrorists was a concession to Palestinian grievances. Generally, the Israeli authorities have not even bothered to interview the targets of terror attacks to gather clues. Instead we can trace the reasons for the crackdown to the needs of the Zionist state in its current crisis, and most immediately to the Likud's slipping hold on state power. The Shamir government desperately needs to show it is in control in order to cover its total failure to alleviate the economic crisis or reduce Israeli casualties in Lebanon. Under pressure from the opposition, the Likud needs a diversionary maneuver to blunt criticism and increase the chances of its reelection. In the process, Shamir and Arens are taking the opportunity to consolidate their hegemony over the state and the right-wing bloc. Three events which preceded the recent arrests indicate that to a great extent they are a political football in the upcoming Israeli elections:

1. In late January, previously undisclosed facts about the invasion of Lebanon were published in 'Israel', highlighting misuse of power on the part of then Defense Minister Sharon and Chief of Staff Eitan. Subsequently, a group of senior army officers demanded an official inquiry into Sharon's performance in the war, contending that forty Israelis were killed in battles for which Sharon had not sought government approval. This was a new reminder that despite Sharon's great contribution to Zionism's aggressive enterprises, he has become a liability to the Likud's credibility and has disturbed the unity and morale of the most sacred Israeli institution: the army.

2. On February 7th, the Karp report was published. Drawn up by Israeli legal experts headed by Deputy Attorney General Karp, it castigated law enforcement in the occupied territories. Covering the period from May 1981 until May 1982, the report has been finished since that time, but publication was delayed because it documented the failure of Israeli police to seriously deal with anti-Palestinian terrorism.

Karp herself is Labor-affiliated, and this report's publication gave a real push to the opposition. The Labor Party lacks foolproof solutions for the economic crisis, which is inherent in the Zionist state's structure, and to the problems encountered in occupying South Lebanon. (It advocates withdrawal only when 'security' is guaranteed, which is essentially the same policy established by Defense Minister Arens. Whether advocated by Labor or Likud, this means continuing occupation and