

Already the settlers have been delegated greater powers, such as the permission granted to them to detain stonethrowers beginning in December. (This gave a 'legal' cover for settlers' pursuing stonethrowers on December 8th, to fire into a Nablus bakery, killing an eleven year old girl and wounding her sister. For this, one settler received three months in jail, another a suspended sentence.) In late January, Arens and Interior Minister Burg proposed harsher penalties for Palestinian stonethrowers who can now be sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. It was decided to move two more regiments of border guards into the 1967 territories. Blowing up the homes of Palestinians suspected of anything from throwing stones to fullblown military operations has again become commonplace. One can imagine many new 'law and order' measures, presented as combatting the so-called Jewish underground, but actually used against Palestinians.

There is a clue to this in a recent statement of Rabbi Kahane, who has been periodically detained for his connections with the underground. For once he qualified his usual support to TNT operations: «We are in favor of these acts. Definitely. However, not in the way they are being done. They have no backing. They will be arrested and will serve ten years. The Arabs should be hit everywhere under the auspices of the authorities. It's a pity that first Begin and now Shamir do not understand this...» But perhaps Shamir and Arens understand very well; this is why they are willing to sacrifice a few of their own in order to consolidate the terrorist state.

It is also obvious that the sacrifice entailed in bringing a few Zionists to 'justice' is quite relative especially when compared to how Zionist 'justice' is meted out to Palestinians. Though 27 Zionists are indicted for murder, membership in a terrorist organization, etc., we have not heard of confessions extracted under torture. Nor will we. Their houses, i.e. settlements, will obviously not be destroyed, nor will their families be harassed. There are many loopholes making 'justice' as comfortable as possible for Zionists. They are charged under civil law, whereas Palestinians are almost always tried in military courts where sentences are much stiffer. Moreover, the cry has already been raised that publicity of their cases will rule out a fair trial. Will this be the excuse for acquittals and suspended sentences? The main purpose of Zionist 'justice', shining up Likud's tarnished image, would still be accomplished as was the case with the inquiry into the Sabra-Shatila massacres.

In conclusion, we want to emphasize that the end of this process will be no less beneficial for the Labor Alignment if it wins the elections. Equally, the whitewash will be used to cover state repression. Only reactionary propaganda can claim that the Jordanian option will relieve the Palestinians from terror. On the contrary, harsh repression will be needed in any attempt to implement this option against the demands of our people for self-determination and an independent state. Democracy in Palestine will never come through Zionist 'justice', but only through determined anti-Zionist struggle.

Whitewashing Murder

Yet another whitewash is being enacted, this time over the cold-blooded murder of the two PFLP freedom fighters captured in the Gaza Strip on April 13th. Persistent press reports, and the existence of photos showing an uninjured commando being led away in handcuffs, forced the Zionist Minister of War to allow an inquiry into the aftermath of the Askalon-Rafah bus operation. The inquiry process was then used to gloss over the fact that for six weeks the photos and all reporting on the operation and its aftermath were censured from the Israeli press. The full contents of the inquiry commission's report is also being kept secret, but it did establish the main unavoidable fact: Our two comrades died from blows to the head from a dull instrument, administered while they were being interrogated some fifty met-

ers from the bus after it had been stormed by the Zionist forces. It is being said that three Israelis, members of Shin Bet, the border police and the army, are likely to be charged with manslaughter, i.e., unintentional murder (sic).

So again the big terrorists got away. Arens and Chief of Staff Moshe Levy were on the scene from the time the bus was brought to a halt. They personally conducted the negotiations with the commandos and ordered the storming of the bus. Now they are using the inquiry report to disclaim all responsibility. Touring the US, Arens audaciously claimed that he and Levy were not on the scene when the fatal beatings occurred. His contention was immediately challenged by the Israeli newspaper *Hadashot*, whose photographer Alex Liebeck took a film sequence where the

picture of the uninjured commando is immediately preceded by a picture of Arens at the scene.

In any case, responsibility for the crime cannot be isolated to a few individuals, for it is the result of the deep racism inherent in the Zionist society. *Hadashot* published a poll wherein 84% of the Israelis questioned agreed to the killing of the two captives. It is also noteworthy that the Labor Party did not deem fit to criticize the Defense Minister for this matter at a time when it is otherwise busy gathering ammunition for its election campaign against the Likud.

The liberal pro-Zionist establishment in the US quickly fell into line with the whitewash. A *New York Times* editorial stated: «Israel has done what decency requires... Both actions (referring also to the arrest of Zionist terrorists) help Israel demonstrate that it can still hear the claims of Arabs for equal justice.» This is far from the message received by the Palestinians. Many of our people living under occupation