

Joint Leadership. As examples we can cite the positive response to the program for unity and democratic reform, the initiative of the Democratic Alliance for restoring the PLO's unity, and the agreement between it and the Fatah Central Committee. Similarly, there was positive support on the part of the Arab masses and their national and progressive organizations, and from the international friends and allies of the Palestinian people.

In general, the past year's experience of the Joint Leadership has been successful. This experience lays the foundation for more steps forward in the process of cooperation with the aim of total unity. In this process, the Joint Leadership's work is not limited to the

leading bodies of the respective fronts. Rather there was participation by the cadres and members of both fronts through the creation of joint leaderships in organizational, political, mass and informational fields. The necessary working papers have been adopted for each of these fields.

This year's experience proved that conviction in the unity of the left is strong among the members of both fronts. The overcoming of difficulties and differences between the two fronts in the last year shows solid determination to continue this process to its ultimate goal. This is the subjective factor that is needed to provide solid ground for the success of the overall unity process, which is accompanied by the masses'

support and the need of our people for such unity.

Moreover, the past year's experience has proven the viability of resolving internal differences through principles of comradely, democratic dialogue, taking existing agreement as the point of departure, and finding solutions for secondary differences on the basis of the actual political development. It would not be scientific to say that the experience of the Joint Leadership will not face difficulties in the future whether due to objective conditions, existing differences, or problems created by other forces. Yet we can scientifically say that experience so far has provided a firm basis for making this experience successful and overcoming all obstacles. ●

## **Occupied Palestine**

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### **Repression and Resistance**

*Our Palestinian masses in the occupied homeland continue their heroic resistance against the occupation and its armed gangs. Mid-July witnessed an escalation of military operations, highlighted by two successful attacks in the space of less than an hour in Jabalia camp in the occupied Gaza Strip. Also hand grenades were thrown at an Israeli patrol in Nablus in the West Bank. In Duheisha camp, there was courageous mass confrontation of a group of Zionist-backed thugs. Also in this period, the National Guidance Committee was reactivated in the West Bank.*

#### **Popular solidarity in Duheisha**

Duheisha, near Bethlehem, was placed under curfew, and the occupation forces carried out an extensive arrest campaign after clashes between the camp residents and a group of thugs which lasted throughout the night of July 14th. The fight began when three thugs attacked 65 year old Hassan Jibril Manaa, who is secretary of the Progressive Workers Bloc in the camp. He was critically wounded by repeated stabbings and almost paralyzed from blows by an iron rod. Alerted by the commotion, camp residents poured into the streets. Defying the thugs who shot wildly about to prevent anyone from aiding Manaa, they picked up stones, sticks and metal rods and encircled the attackers, preventing them from fleeing. The houses and cars of the thugs were set ablaze.

Units of the Zionist army and border guards were rushed to the scene. They cut off electricity in the camp and started firing their rifles. This led to continued clashes which lasted throughout the night. The army clamped a curfew on the camp and surrounding area, and broke the encirclement of the thugs. Twenty camp residents were arrested in the initial sweep of an extensive arrest campaign. In another act of collective punishment, the Zionist troops cut off the camp's water supply.

The facts of the incident combine to indicate that the attackers are collaborators. How else can one interpret the fact that they had pistols, or that they gave the Zionist forces such a golden opportunity to harass the camp and actually received protection from the enemy? Adding to the seriousness of the situation was the fact that there had

been a series of destructive acts against nationalists' homes and institutions in the preceding weeks.

In response the people of Duheisha banded together and took their own measures. *Al Fajr* reports the details of how they used the traditional form of *sulha* (reconciliation). Five hundred residents attended negotiations between representatives of the attackers and their families, and the representatives of the Manaa family. Monetary compensation, the usual peace offering, was refused by the Manaa family. Instead it was decided that the three attackers should be totally banned from the camp. Thus a measure was taken to preserve the solidarity of Duheisha which is known for resistance to occupation.

#### **The National Guidance Committee**

The National Guidance Committee is now being reactivated after having been banned by the Zionist authorities in the spring of 1982. Reports from the occupied homeland tell that the Zionists have recently adopted new measures against National Guidance Committee members, aiming at finishing the committee once and for all. Angered by the renewal of the committee's activities, the 'civil administration' is planning more stringent measures: Besides imposing house arrest on members, they are considering deporting them away from population centers into deserted areas