



Children in Fawara camp

of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is to be remembered that the Zionist authorities previously deported two of the committee's members, the mayors of Al Khalil (Hebron) and Halhoul, to Lebanon in the summer of 1979.

#### Protesting prison conditions

In mid-June the Zionists opened a new prison called Rafeedyah in Nablus, filling it with new detainees as well as those transferred from other jails. The new prison is divided into four parts with

a total capacity of about 1,500. Each part is isolated from the others and has a separate administration. The prison now contains 250 inmates with an average of fourteen in a single cell 4.5m. x 4.5m. It is equipped with modern torture and spying equipment such as television cameras in the cells.

Almost immediately the conditions in Rafeedyah sparked protest. On July 9th, there was a confrontation between prisoners' families and the guards when

mothers complained of the treatment their sons were getting. The prisoners began a protest inside and refused food; they were accosted by the guards who used tear gas and clubs against them. The families then took the protest to the offices of the International Red Cross where they staged a sit-in for the following demands:

- Medical treatment for all those with contagious diseases, and that specialist doctors be allowed to enter the jail.
- Improvement in the food, and cash payment for prison work.
- For the prison administration to deal with the prisoners' representative as a liaison.
- Providing beds rather than prisoners' sleeping on the floor.
- Allowing the purchase of a transistor radio.
- Allowing the prisoners to get the leaflets, magazines and newspapers that are distributed in occupied Palestine.
- Increasing the amount of money prisoners may receive from outside for canteen expenses.
- Allowing longer sunbreaks for the prisoners who now spend over 22 hours daily inside.
- Allowing more freedom for the prisoner to choose his cell.

On July 20th, there was another clash between the prison guards and the detainees' family members who continue to press for better treatment of the prisoners.

Entrance to Duheisha as it was blocked by the Israelis last year

