

Tokyo Commemorates Sabra - Shatila Massacre

A special exhibition showing items remaining from the victims of the Sabra Shatila massacre in September 1982 was held in Tokyo at the Yamate church. The exhibition was organized by several Japanese organizations. More than 100 items collected from these two camps or through the families of the martyrs, photos taken by photo-journalist Mr. Hirokawa, as well as paintings by Palestinian and Japanese artists dedicated to the martyrs, were exhibited.

The opening ceremony was held on September 14th with the presence of 12 ambassadors and participation of many representatives from Japanese supporting and solidarity organizations as well as Japanese press. Mr. Nuku'i, chief editor of the socialist newspaper, the organ of the Japanese Socialist Party, stressed the importance of the exhibition in his speech. He mentioned his visit to Sabra and Shatila in 1980, and congratulated the organizers on the success of the exhibition. Mr. Monsouri, Director of the Arab League Office in Tokyo, spoke as one of the sponsors of the exhibition, saying that the items exhibited are only a part of the material and photos from a huge massacre. Mr. Baker Abdel Munem, PLO representative to Japan, also spoke, thanking the Japanese friends for their efforts in organizing the exhibition. He said that «the Sabra-Shatila massacre was one of the massacres the Palestinian people had to face, and the PLO is forced to face political massacre and conspiracies. Nevertheless, the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO will continue the struggle until victory.»

Mr. Hirokawa spoke at the end on behalf of the organizing committee. He mentioned the first moments of entering Sabra and Shatila on the morning of September 18th, 1982. He said, «All I could do was to push the button of the camera to take pictures of the killed, massacred people. But after that I felt it was my responsibility to make records of the documents about the people killed in the massacre. So I decided to visit Beirut again and to collect material remaining from the massacre. Any single item or personal belonging to tell about the life, dreams and aspirations of these Palestinians.»

An opening concert was given at the exhibition hall dedicated to the



This year's commemoration in Sabra and Shatila

Palestinian martyrs by Japanese musicians. Miss Akiko Mizuno sang songs she had composed based on a letter from a Palestinian woman survivor of the Beirut massacre, titled «Please remember what happened on that day». Mr. Takeshi Okada also sang songs, he had composed, one of them based on the poem «She».

Works by Palestinian artists were exhibited in one corner, especially the works of Vladimir Tamari, a Palestinian artist living in Tokyo, and the following films were shown: «Why?», «The Palestinian people do have rights», «Palestine - years of victory 1976-1983».

All these materials were later moved to the atomic bomb stricken city of Hiroshima for an exhibition on September 20th to 30th.

Abu Sharif Greets Rally

Comrade Bassam Abu Sharif, member of the Joint Leadership of the PFLP/DFLP extended the following greeting to the rally held in Tokyo on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the Sabra Shatila massacre:

On the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the Sabra Shatila massacre I wish to express my deep appreciation of your solidarity with the Palestinian national liberation movement and your continued efforts of support.

The new Israeli cabinet of Perez, strongly backed by US imperialism, has the same character as the prior fanatic government of Begin which conducted the massacres in Sabra and Shatila in 1982. Today the true meaning of the so-called «peace settlement policy» is carried out in occupied Palestine and South Lebanon, where Israeli military forces daily exploit, oppress and kill people, because of their rejection of the Israeli occupation.

However after the Beirut war in 1982, the radical united forces of Palestinian, Lebanese nationalists and Syria proved themselves to be the vanguard force in the area by the victory of the liberation of Beirut. They were capable of driving the US-marines out of Lebanon, cancelling the May 17th agreement between the Lebanese fascists, 'Israel' and USA, and now by continuously

escalating the struggle against the Israeli occupation army in Lebanon.

Under the severe pressure of imperialism headed by the US in our area, the question of peace or all out war is at stake in the Middle East, while the PLO is facing a dangerous internal crisis. However, the history of our struggle and the determination of our people, who suffered and sacrificed so much for their just cause, assure us of our ability to come out of this crisis and strengthen the PLO unity. The Aden-Algiers agreement provides the basis for reunification of the PLO which is a step forward towards the escalation of armed struggle and political mass-work against the enemy.

We, the Palestinian fighters, will strengthen our work, and strengthen our ties of solidarity with people all over the world who struggle to free their countries from our common enemy: imperialism headed by US.

DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM HEADED BY THE US

LONG LIVE THE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE JAPANESE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES

LONG LIVE THE JAPANESE PEOPLE'S ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE

LONG LIVE THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE