

Solidarity Movements Urged to Help Palestinian Artists



Suleiman Mansour

The International Committee for Sabra and Shatila (ICSS) has recently produced a series of 18 postcards showing works of different Palestinian artists. The artists who have contributed to this series live and produce under different circumstances, a fact reflected in their works.

Zuhdi Hammoude El-Adawi is a prisoner in the Zionist prison Askelon. In DP 3 we carried an article about the recent hunger strike in the Askelon prison. The demands of the prisoners described the horrible conditions the Palestinian prisoners were exposed to. El Adawi paints all his pictures on handkerchieves which are later smuggled out of the prison. Kamal Moghani and Suleiman Mansour live in occupied Palestine. In DP 5 we carried an article about the works and conditions of working for Suleiman Mansour. These conditions are in no way better than the conditions for the other Palestinian artists living in occupied Palestine. It is the Zionist cultural policy to strangle and crush Palestinian art and culture; freedom of expression is not only non-existent, but also are artists persecuted and even imprisoned for producing art. Other painters as Emad Abdul Wahab were exiled first from Palestine, later from Lebanon. In other cases the paintings carry no artist's signature, a security measure needed for some artists underground or in exile. The artists in prison, under occupation, in exile or underground produce art reflecting this situation, also the only 'choice' of existence of the Palestinian people. The paintings are marked by this fact, but even from the Askelon prison the paintings are also marked by hope and determination. The flowers and trees continue to grow in the camp and occupied Palestine, as the struggle of liberation continues in prison, under occupation and in exile.

The ICSS, which printed the postcards, is a PLO committee, concentrating their work on spreading Palestinian art and culture. A spokesman from the committee told *Democratic* ▶

Zuhdi Hammoude El-Adawi - Ashkelon Zionist Prison

