

Palestinian Camps Attacked

Stop Press

As we go to press, the Amal movement, together with the 6th and 8th Brigades of the Lebanese Army, continue their savage offensive against the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut. These forces are using a wide range of weaponry, including heavy artillery and rocket launchers, hence inflicting excessive death and injury on the Palestinian masses, and causing heavy damage to the camps. It is clear that Amal is determined to capture and destroy the camps, and disarm the Palestinians. Amal has turned a deaf ear to appeals from Lebanese, Arab and international progressive forces, to stop these attacks.

Amal launched its attack on the false pretext of combatting Arafat's forces and ill designs for Lebanon, but everyone knows that Arafat's influence in Lebanon now is limited. Rather the attack on the camps is hitting the Palestinians who are opposed to Arafat's deviating policies, and who joined Lebanese progressives and nationalists in fighting the US, Israeli and fascist forces in Lebanon.

One can trace Amal's preparations for the attack on the camps back to when the Israeli occupation forces started evacuating South Lebanon. At this time, the Amal movement began preparing itself politically and militarily. It began agitating its members against the Palestinians. It began to strike out at the Palestinians and even more at Lebanese progressives. Nabih Berri has more than once stated that Amal will prevent the Palestinians from attacking the Zionist enemy across Lebanon's border, and that only the «legal Lebanese» institutions, together with Amal, are responsible for security in the Palestinian camps.

To avoid conflict with Amal, the Palestine National Salvation Front had previously presented a working paper to Lebanese parties, including Amal. This paper outlined the PNSF's view on how to regulate relations between Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist forces, based on the necessity of consolidating the Lebanese-Syrian-Palestinian alliance. Instead of responding to this working paper, Amal opened fire on the Palestinian camps.

The fact of the matter is that the Amal movement is abiding by the Zionist enemy's conditions as spelled out in an Amal-Israeli agreement, reached through French mediation. Thus, Amal, the 6th and 8th Brigades, and their backers are attempting to end the Palestinian nationalist role in Lebanon.

At this juncture, we must reaffirm that we will fight all such secret and public agreements until we foil them. We will never give up our right to defend the Palestinian refugee camps. We would like to remind all conspirators - old and new - that past attempts to control or liquidate our people have failed. Our people are determined to continue their struggle until fulfilling their national rights.

Press Release May 25th:

More than 300 Palestinian and Arab women are now staging a sit-in at the Red Cross headquarters in Damascus. They call on international humanitarian organizations to send the needed medical supplies and insure the flow of water to the besieged Palestinian camps in Beirut. The protesting women

also called on international organizations to intervene to end the siege of the camps.

PFLP Military Statement May 25th:

Due to the failure of Amal and the 6th Brigade to break into the Palestinian camps in Beirut, the Lebanese Army leadership prepared to send select military forces to support the attackers. The 6th Brigade was provided with new armaments and a special road opened for it through East Beirut (excerpt).

PFLP Military Statement May 26th:

The forces of the Palestinian revolution succeeded in pushing back the attackers' advance in Sabra and Shatila camps. Bourj al Barajneh is under heavy snelling. This morning the Amal forces escalated their provocations in the Baalbek area and increased their blockades around Al Jalil camp (Eastern Lebanon).

The PFLP military spokesman announced that new efforts are being made to reduce the siege of the camps. To this purpose, special units of the Palestinian revolution, joined by Lebanese nationalists, have begun striking the attackers from the rear. Two such attacks were successfully carried out today against Amal positions in Hamed Street and Barbour Street (excerpt).

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