

Occupied Palestine

Zionism is Racism

Palestinians under occupation are facing heightened Zionist aggression with ever clearer racist overtones. The Zionist government has renewed use of emergency measures allowing for deportation and administrative detention for 6-month renewable periods on the grounds of mere suspicion. Zionist settlers have again escalated assaults on Palestinians. The first week of September, armed settlers instated their own patrolling all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli army reinforced its ranks in the occupied territories. This aggressive Zionist campaign is being presented as a response to increased attacks on Israelis, and certainly the oppressors always attempt to squash the people's resistance; a similar dynamic is at work in South Africa today. Yet the causes of racist violence go even deeper, being related to the Zionist state's nature and present crisis.

Mob violence

In late July, an Israeli mob indiscriminately attacked Palestinians arriving for work in Afuleh in the occupied Galilee, after learning that two residents of the town had been found dead. The settlers broke bottles in order to stab the workers, all of whom were beaten and 15 seriously injured. The Israeli police did not interfere. Kahane arrived in Afuleh and was hailed as a king by the mob. Afterwards three entirely different Palestinian youths were arrested on suspicion of the killing; their families' homes in a village near Jenin, in the occupied West Bank, were demolished by the occupation forces. The funeral for the two slain Israelis became another rallying point for the racists who shouted for revenge and «Death to the terrorists».

The truth of the incident was that three Palestinian youths, out hunting, stumbled over an Israeli couple. The Israeli man drew his revolver, and the Palestinians reacted. Fanatical Israelis jumped on the incident, whipping up mass hysteria to promote their political goals. A few days later two Palestinian youth from Tubas village were found dead near Nablus, their bodies charred and mutilated.

Several polls taken before the Afuleh killing attest to Israeli attitudes: the Israeli daily *Haaretz* published a poll on July 28th, that 70% of Israelis support imposing the death penalty on Palestinian commandos. Four Likud ministers have declared their support to this: Minister of State Moshe Arens, Minister of Justice Moshe Nissen, Minister of Tourism Abraham Shareer, and Minister of Trade and Industry Ariel Sharon.



Burhan Karkutly

citizenry...» (as quoted in *Al Fajr*, August 23rd).

Legalized murder

The Zionist state gave its stamp of approval to murdering Palestinian commandos in mid-August: Brigadier General Yitzhak Mordechai, commander of the Israeli infantry and paratroopers, was cleared by a military court of improper conduct in the killing of two commandos in April 1984. He was the responsible officer present when the two were removed from the bus they had hijacked and beaten on the head with gunbutts, causing death. Yet the military court found that Mordechai had used only «reasonable force» and he can now be promoted to full general.

Earlier in July, a poll indicated that 10% of Israelis and 40% of Israeli youth agree with Kahane's goal of driving out all Arabs. Another poll published by *Haaretz* showed the possible political results: If elections had been held this July, Kahane's KACH would have received 9% of the votes, as opposed to 1% last year. The Tehiya party, also on the extreme right, and KACH together would have polled 16%, equal to 19 Knesset seats, making them the third largest parliamentary group. (Presently KACH has 1 MK and Tehiya 5.)

Besides whipping up racist sentiment, KACH is using its growing influence to undertake concrete steps towards its goals. The August 5th edition of *Syria Times* cited a Reuters report that KACH has established its first youth training camp at Mitzpe Jericho settlement; 60 teenagers are reportedly training there. In the latest elections to the Kiryat Arba settlement council, KACH