

and January, adding to fears that the prison administration has a lot to hide. There were reports of attacks on the detainees on December 13th, when 30 were injured while protesting. Again, in late January, after the escape of three political prisoners from Megiddo, the guards attacked the prisoners. Then on February 8th, the 400 Palestinians who had come to visit detained relatives were harassed by the prison personnel; they immediately staged a militant protest. The soldiers cancelled visiting hours and arrested 300 of the visitors, meanwhile attacking others departing in a bus, with tear gas. When word spread in the prison that visits had been cancelled, the detainees began a protest that lasted two days, despite soldiers opening fire and killing two of the prisoners, while injuring a number of others.

Protesting the killings, Megiddo detainees began an open-ended hunger strike. Protests spread to the Ansar III, Al Fara and Dhahiriya detention centers as well, and on February 15th, Palestinian political prisoners in all Israeli jails joined together in a one-day hunger strike.

1989 IN THE STATE OF PALESTINE THE RISE OF THE POPULAR ARMY

Palestinians began the new year with demonstrations celebrating the 24th anniversary of Fatah's first guerrilla attack against the Zionist occupation. In some places, there were quasi-military parades by the strike forces which in the recent period have begun to assume the form of a people's army. In call no. 32, issued in early January, the United National Leadership hailed the emergence of the Palestinian Popular Army as «the army of the PLO, the army of the uprising which basically comprises our vanguards, is subject to the UNL's orders and includes all organizations of the PLO,» calling on all youth to join.

The escalation continued, and in mid-January, the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Ahronot* quoted senior army commanders as saying «the violence was a return to the bloodshed earlier in the 13-month Palestinian uprising after several months of relative calm» (AP,

January 16th). The escalation was also apparent in an increasing number of strike days: To the five days of general strike originally scheduled by the UNL in January, were added three consecutive days of total commercial strikes throughout the 1967 occupied territories to protest the occupation army's increased killing of demonstrators and children, as well as local strikes to protest specific things, ranging from expulsions, killings and demolitions, to tax raids. In February, in addition to the traditional two-day general strike marking the monthly anniversary of the intifada, the UNL for the first time scheduled three consecutive strike days. The general strike of February 19-21st was not a protest but an assertion of basic principles, namely, Palestinian rights to repatriation, self-determination and an independent state.

TARGETING EXPLOITATION

Another noteworthy characteristic of the struggle in 1989 has been the increasingly precise focus on hitting the institutions whereby the occupation exploits Palestinian resources, whether labor or income. Call no. 32 emphasized burning the establishments of the occupiers. In January, the Israeli labor office in Jerusalem was set on fire, while the Jenin and Nablus branches of the Israeli Bank Leumi were attacked. In February, the Israeli tax office was burned in Qalqilia, as was the civil administration's financial department in Nablus, and the Israeli labor department office in Khan Younis. In addition, the boycott of Israeli goods (for which there is a Palestinian alternative) was substantially tightened. In many places, the strike forces publicly burned Israeli goods found on the local market, in accordance with the war on Zionist products declared in the UNL's calls.

These militant acts served to highlight the success of the economic boycott, which with call no. 21, has included Palestinians' withdrawing their savings from Israeli banks. In mid-January, the Israeli Discount Bank permanently closed its branch in Tulkarem, having earlier closed bran-

ches in Jericho and Ramallah. The consumer boycott's results were reflected in a report issued by the Bank of Israel on February 9th, according to which Israel sold only \$650 million in goods to the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1988, compared to \$928 million worth of products in 1987.

The intifada inflicted new setbacks on the Israeli civil administration apparatus. On February 20th, seven Palestinians who had been serving as judges declared their intention to resign. There was a renewed popular offensive against appointed mayors and other collaborators, with fifteen attacks on such persons in January and February.

The main focus of militant struggle, however, continues to be against the occupation itself. In addition to ongoing mass confrontation of Israeli soldiers and settlers, well-directed firebombs were thrown against military patrols, buses and posts, at a rate of more than one every other day throughout January and February. On March 5th, Israeli radio reported that two million shekels had been spent on reinforcing Egged buses against such attacks. Even more significant, in the third week of February, two Israeli occupation soldiers were killed, while a third is missing.

BUILDING UNITY AND INDEPENDENCE

Alongside militant confrontation of the occupation, Palestinians have continued building the infrastructure for its alternative, the State of Palestine, with ongoing efforts at collective self-sufficiency, increased local production, expanding cooperatives, social welfare and medical care. Education has received even more attention, especially since the January 20th closure of all West Bank schools, after a less than two-month opening that was itself marked by temporary closures of many schools. Realizing that the Israeli policy of enforcing ignorance is taking on a permanent character, the UNL reemphasized its calls for organizing popular education and for educators to draw up a national curriculum worthy of the students in the Palestinian state in the making. The people of the in- ►