

the July 6th operation on an Israeli bus traveling from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. A single Palestinian, armed only with daring and inventiveness, steered the bus off the road, killing 14 Israelis and injuring over 20 - more than half the number killed in the previous year and a half of the uprising.

Another indication of the intifada's solidity and radicalization has been the intensified campaign against collaborators, signalled by the United National Leadership's call to make April 26th, a day of holding collaborators accountable. This was presaged by instructions in call no. 32, at the first of the year, for setting up people's courts to make the system for dealing with collaborators just and based on national consensus. With a system of giving warnings and chances for repentance having been in effect for an extended period, the strike forces doubled their efforts to purge those who violated the national will by not resigning from posts connected to the occupation, or persons whose criminal activities detracted from the social cohesion of the masses. The occupation authorities are well aware that this campaign deprives them of vehicles for penetrating the popular unity.

The Israeli military's sense of having played many of its cards, without any returns, was succinctly expressed by Chief of Staff Dan Shomron on June 15th: «Everyone who wants the intifada eliminated must understand there are only three ways to do this: by transfer, starvation, and physical elimination, that is - genocide.» On June 19th, Shamir said that the government would take secret steps to stop the uprising. In fact, over the summer, each of the options Shomron named has been employed to some degree, secretly or openly.

Although the Israeli government is still not prepared to take the consequences of all-out «transfer,» it has been ready to defy world condemnation by continuing to expell Palestinians from their homeland: eight West Bank and Gaza Strip residents were permanently evicted from Palestine on June 29th, to be followed by five more West Bankers on August 27th. Among them were trade unionists, students, professionals, peasants and formerly



Drawing by a fifteen-year-old girl living in the occupied territories: «They could not penetrate the streets, so they used helicopters to throw tear gas.»

imprisoned militants. This brings to 61 the number of Palestinians expelled since the intifada began.

Physical elimination, though not yet at literally genocidal levels, is a threat constantly hanging over the head of every Palestinian of the intifada. In June, 26 Palestinians were martyred, five of them children. Though this death toll is lower than the preceding two months, a careful examination of the circumstances shows that most of these deaths were in fact summary executions where Zionist soldiers deliberately murdered persons they

perceived to be activists of the intifada, in some cases ignoring the possibility of arresting them. In early July, Shomron affirmed to the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee that regulations for dealing with «suspicious persons» allowed the army to detain or shoot with plastic bullets at Palestinians simply because they were masked - a common phenomenon at a time when the entire population, and especially youth, have good reason to think they are wanted by the occupation authorities. In early September, Defense Minister Rabin further ►