



Weekly bulletin published by the  
Tunis-based  
Intifada Solidarity Committee

Vol. I, No. 10  
7 October 1988

# Bearing witness

*An Argentinian author returns from the West Bank  
to tell the world about the brutality she saw the Palestinians  
endure in their homes and hospitals*

An Argentinian author has written an article in an American newspaper describing how Israeli soldiers attacked a Palestinian hospital and beat up doctors, nurses and patients who had spoken to her and other members of a fact-finding delegation visiting the West Bank.

The author, Alicia Partnoy, who was a political prisoner in Argentina from 1977 until she was deported to the U.S. in 1979, was part of the first American all woman delegation to visit the Occupied Territories since the uprising began last December 9. The 11-member team included writers, journalists and nuns.

In her article, published September 27 by the *Christian Science Monitor*, Partnoy said that on the fourth day of the visit, the delegation went to the al-Ittihad Hospital in Nablus, the second-biggest city in the West Bank after Jerusalem, and talked to several patients, nurses and doctors.

## GUILT

"Two hours after we left," she wrote, "Israeli soldiers erupted into the hospital, broke the glass doors of the operating room, beat up 30 doctors and nurses, took away six patients and their visiting families, beat them viciously, and threw them back into the hospital."

Partnoy, author of *The Little School: Tales of Disappearance and Survival in Argentina* and *You Can't Drown the Fire: Latin American Women Writing in Exile*, described the sense of guilt that haunted her and her colleagues, who blamed themselves for getting the hospital staff and their patients in trouble.

But then, she said, "I heard myself saying, 'These are the effects of arbitrary repressive patterns. They make

you feel guilty for crimes that you have not committed, they reduce you to silence. We are not guilty for being witnesses.'"

She added: "I am no longer a victim. I am a witness... I am the person I would have cried to for help in the Argentina of my tragedy. The challenge to effect change with my words is double... Even when my words in this second language of mine are too tight or too loose, even then I am telling, yes, I am telling."

Partnoy said she first became interested in the Palestinian tragedy when she was a prisoner in Argentina and was visited by a Red Cross officer to whom she complained about the inhuman conditions in which she and other political inmates were living:

"'Little food,' I said. 'Overcrowding (four women in a nine-by nine cell, 21 hours a day). We are not allowed to touch our children...'

## LITANY

"Suddenly he spoke back: 'You ought to see the conditions Palestinian prisoners endure in Israel. This, here, is nothing.'"

When she visited the Occupied Territories this year, she said, she thought that her suffering in Argentina had prepared her for what she would see, but "instead, each stop at a hospital bed was doubly painful for me. When the Palestinian teenagers showed me their wounds, I was hurt for them -- and for my friends tortured in Argentina a decade earlier. When the mothers of the dead, their heads covered with traditional white scarfs, pronounced the litany of their children's sufferings, other voices, other scarfs echoed in my memory: those of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo."



## The U.S. & the plastic-bullet pogroms

*Reports suggest Washington gave Israel the go-ahead to test the new ammunition on the Palestinians*

State Department officials told at least two reporters on "deep background" last week that the U.S. had given Israel the go-ahead to use plastic bullets against the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The officials said the U.S., which manufactures and uses plastic bullets for training purposes, was interested in seeing how the supposedly non-lethal weapon performed in real-life situations.

The revelation came as spokesmen of the U.S. State Department and the White House were reading public statements condemning Israel's use of the bullets, which, according to UN figures, have killed eight Palestinians and, in Gaza alone, inflicted serious injuries on over 200 people in September. Injury figures for the West Bank have yet to be compiled by the UN, but they too are expected to be in the hundreds, with a large percentage of injuries among children.

### IMPLICATIONS

Observers in Washington, hearing both the U.S. condemnation of the use of plastic bullets and the reports about American involvement in their use, had differing opinions about the implications.

While a few dismissed the reports as inaccurate, others speculated that the green light was given to Israel by a government agency or by officials not necessarily following administration policy and without prior consultations with the State Department. Some have not discarded the possibility that use of the plastic bullets was encouraged by the Reagan administration, which cynically dissociated itself from the policy by condemning it when it touched off an international outcry.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, responding to questions from correspondents on September 28, admitted that plastic bullets were manufactured in the U.S., but he said they were not exported to Israel. "There was no license to do it," he said.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said that, although Israel was capable of manufacturing the plastic bullets, it had acquired them from another country. Speaking at a September 28 press conference, Rabin refused to say which country had exported the bullets to Israel.

In an apparent attempt to protect the manufacturer, Israel has made it a policy to collect all plastic bullets extracted from Palestinian victims. The bullets, which are pointed and heavier than rubber bullets, are said to be non-lethal if fired from a distance of over 70 meters. The bullets, however, penetrate the body and lodge inside it. How far they penetrate depends on the range from which they are fired, and what damage they do depends on the part of the body they hit. If the point of

penetration is the head or the area around a major organ, death is almost certain. Wherever they lodge, however, they must be returned to the Israeli army when they are extracted, under regulations put into effect as soon as the bullets were added to the Israeli arsenal last August.

Rabin and a number of army officers have told the press that soldiers using the new ammunition are under orders to shoot at the legs. But as Israel's *Jerusalem Post* editorial on September 30 noted, "although they are supposed to be fired at a minimum range of 70 meters, only by trained personnel and only at people's legs, these formal limitations are not very strictly observed. Plastic bullets are in fact fired at all ranges by inexperienced soldiers at all parts of the body, and their consequences are not infrequently lethal."

In his September 28 press conference, Rabin said he was "not worried" by the soaring Palestinian casualty toll. "The rioters are suffering more casualties," he said. "That is precisely our aim."

### SECONDARY

The defense minister said that protests from the UN or other quarters were of "secondary importance" to him.

A high-ranking UN official had told *Reuter* on September 27 that his agency was protesting the increased casualties among Palestinians. "Most people being hit are very young," he said. "We have raised this with the Israelis repeatedly to no effect."

A senior official at the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) told American reporters the same day: "It's become an open season here. It's a clear trend to open fire, and some very young children are being shot." He produced a list of Gaza casualties that included an 11-year-old boy shot in the chest, a 12-year-old shot in the neck, and two 15-year-olds shot in the abdomen.

UNRWA has accused the Israeli Givati brigade, which is stationed in Gaza and considered by the Jewish state to be a crack infantry unit, of using excessive force. A Givati unit has occupied a three-story building inside Gaza's Shate' camp and is provoking the residents by throwing things at them from the roof and sniping at them with all kinds of bullets, including live ammunition, UNRWA says.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley told reporters on September 28: "We are disturbed by the rise in casualties to Palestinians in recent clashes with the Israeli military. We can see no justification for a policy admittedly designed to cause an increase in casualties."

In the meantime, at the White House, spokesman Marlin Fitzwater was saying that the Reagan administration "has consistently opposed the use of



## One patient: nine bullets and a beating

A 24-year-old Palestinian from the Balata refugee camp in the West Bank was shot nine times and then beaten by soldiers last week in the continuing orgy of Israeli violence.

The Palestinian, Nizam Abu Huleh, dropped in a pool of his own blood when an undetermined number of soldiers fired a volley of plastic bullets at him on September 27. He was then chained and dragged to a military vehicle unconscious.

It is not known whether he was beaten in the vehicle or during questioning later, but when he eventually arrived at the Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem, his face showed evident signs of beating.

Of the nine bullets in his body, one has lodged in his head. His chances of survival are slim.

Nizam has been visited at the hospital by Knesset Member Ran Cohen, who is active in the Citizens' Right Movement and is planning a major protest against the army's use of plastic bullets.

A Makassed Hospital physician, Hani Abdin, told reporters, "We are seeing wounds on all parts of the body now." Head wounds, once rare, were now common, he said.

He showed correspondents two other victims sharing the intensive care unit with Nizam: Mohammad Fawzi Abdu, 24, and Raed Kilan, 22. Mohammad was shot in the head and the bullet fragmented inside. Raed was shot in the eye and the bullet fragments are embedded near the base of the brain, where they cannot be removed. Neither is expected to live.

Palestinians with other kinds of injuries are still pouring into West Bank hospitals. Among them is Rana Mohammad Hassan Matar, a 10-year-old girl from Ain Beit al-Ma' refugee camp near Nablus, who was shot in the face with a rubber bullet that lodged under her left eye; and Amineh Aburish, a 22-year-old woman from the same camp who was brought in with broken bones after being savagely beaten by Israeli troops.

## Because...

### Rabin and Gissin trip over each other's tongues

An Israeli army spokesman and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, apparently failing to coordinate their stories in advance, gave reporters conflicting reasons for the surge in the number of Palestinian casualties over the past month.

While the army spokesman said the increased casualties were the result of more protest action by the Palestinians, Rabin said they were caused by more violent Israeli action.

The spokesman, Colonel Raanan Gissin, rejecting UN objections to the rising violence, told the *Associated Press* on September 26 that the increased casualties were due to "more violent Palestinian protests, not more liberal use of gunfire."

Rabin, in a September 28 press conference, told reporters: "The number of injuries does not indicate an

escalation of incidents. On the contrary, it illustrates the improved ability of IDF soldiers to carry out their mission and deal effectively with rioters, so that we will have the upper hand."

Gissin was responding to a UN official who had produced figures to show the rise in the number of casualties. They indicated that Palestinians injured in Gaza from September 1 through the third week of the month numbered 130, compared to 19 in July.

"There is a clear trend of a growing use of live ammunition that cannot be justified," the official said. "Our concern is very real. This is not just a knee-jerk reaction to a bad day."

The "bad day" he was referring to was "Black Monday," September 26, in which at least two Palestinians were killed and 67 wounded.

lethal force in controlling the situation in the occupied territories. While we recognize Israeli responsibility to maintain law and order, we believe it should be done with appropriate restraint." He said the U.S. would continue to "make its views known" to Israel through diplomatic channels.

Reagan administration officials, asked how far they were prepared to go in "making their views known," said the U.S. would not use the aid it gives Israel as leverage to persuade the Jewish state to behave.

"The aid issue is not one that we will put into this," he said. Instead, the U.S. would try to convince Israel

that continued use of the plastic bullets "can only hurt Israel's image in the international community."

West Bank sources said that until the U.S. stopped supporting Israeli policy with funds, technology and arms, "every Palestinian will consider every bullet fired at him, be it live, rubber or plastic, to be a bullet fired by the armed forces of the U.S."

An *intifada* leader in Nablus said Washington's support of Israel's measures to "maintain law and order" was almost amusing, considering the illegal nature of every measure Israel has taken in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since 1967.



## A letter from prison



The thousands of Palestinian nationalists who have been jailed by Israel are reported planning to write a letter to the Palestine National Council (PNC) advocating a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli problem.

The letter, to be handwritten and signed by as many Palestinian political prisoners as possible, will support a Palestinian declaration of independence on the basis of UN General Assembly Resolution 181 of 1947, which called for the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states.

It will also back the formation of a provisional Palestinian government and the initiation of

Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in the framework of an international peace conference.

The PNC, the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile, is scheduled to meet later this month to take a decision on the Palestinian nation's next step. It is widely expected to either demand the replacement of Israeli occupation with a UN trusteeship in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip or declare independence and form a provisional government.

The 3,000 Palestinian prisoners at the Ketziot (Ansar-3) prison camp in the Negev desert are said to be in agreement on the exact contents of the letter, which will

not be revealed to the public until it is read at the PNC meeting.

The Ansar-3 prisoners, most of whom are being held with no charges, were the target of another Israeli crackdown on September 28.

The Israeli press reported that prison guards opened fire when Palestinian prisoners staged a protest over the rough treatment of an inmate who was wounded by a soldier. The prisoner, a journalist from Gaza, was attacked because he took a walk in the prison yard without permission. No information was available on the extent of the journalist's injuries or the number of casualties among the protestors.

## An invitation to the UN

and a warning to the U.S. and Israel from the leaders of the intifada

In a letter to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and a leaflet distributed in the Occupied Territories, the Unified National Command of the Uprising has once more urged the international community to place the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under United Nations custodianship pending a permanent settlement of the Palestinian problem.

The letter, addressed to De Cuellar and the UN General Assembly, which is now in session in New York, was made available to journalists September 26.

Signed "PLO-Unified National Command of the Uprising," it called on the UN to work toward an Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian and other territories occupied in 1967, including Arab East Jerusalem, and annul all Israeli annexationist measures including the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Those territories should, after the Israeli withdrawal, be placed under UN supervision for a period not exceeding a few months, until the Palestinian people can freely exercise their right to self-determination, the letter said.

Urging Israel to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as the party the Palestinian people has chosen as its representative, the letter called for an authoritative international conference to settle the Palestinian problem once and for all.

Pending Israeli withdrawal from the territories, it said, the UN must prevail on the Jewish state to abide by international law and UN resolutions, including those prohibiting deportation of Palestinians and their arbitrary arrest and imprisonment without charges or trial. Israel, the letter said, must be persuaded to allow free Palestinian municipal elections under UN supervision and to stop the "genocide" of the Palestinians, which is taking the form of "murder, torture, deportation, house demolition, and administrative detention."

The demand for UN trusteeship in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was repeated in the Unified National Command's 26th leaflet, which was distributed in the Occupied Territories September 26.

The leaflet, which set a schedule of protest action by Palestinians in all parts of the territories, assured the people of Palestine that their *intifada*, which had forced King Hussein of Jordan to concede the defeat of his plan for their land, would foil the continuing schemes to create an alternative to the Palestinian option for a settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

### CONCESSIONS

"Let America, which supports our enemy with all its power, know that it is the one who must make concessions to our people, and not the other way round. Let it then recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. Let it recognize our people's right to repatriation, self-determination and



## Israeli lobby tries to block Arafat's visit to UN headquarters

Arab League representative urges Shultz to observe international law

The Arab League's permanent observer at the UN, Ambassador Clovis Maksoud, has called on U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to observe international law and resist congressional attempts to deny Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yaser Arafat access to the UN headquarters in New York.

Maksoud's statement, issued September 30, came in response to letters sent to Shultz by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives demanding that the State Department reject Arafat's visa application if it is submitted.

### TERRORISM

At this writing, 51 senators -- over half the Senate members -- had signed the anti-Arafat letter, which urged Shultz to deny Arafat entry to the U.S. "until he and the PLO renounce terrorism as a tool of foreign policy" and accept Israel's right to exist. Signatures for a similar House letter were still being collected.

Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), the PLO's second-in-command, told American journalists last week that the Israelis and their supporters should be the last to bring up the subject of terrorism.

"Terrorism," he said, "should be evaluated with two eyes, not one eye. By any account, Palestinian 'terror' does not exceed one percent of the Israeli terror that has been unleashed on us in the Lebanese camps and in the Occupied Territories."

Arafat has ordered a halt to all Palestinian violence outside Israel and the Occupied Territories, but he has repeatedly refused to renounce resistance to Israeli

occupation. It is this resistance that Israel's supporters on Capitol Hill refer to as "Palestinian terrorism."

Ambassador Maksoud, in his press statement, accused the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the official Israeli lobby in Washington, of being behind the congressional letters to Shultz.

He said that the Israeli lobby, which had tried in vain to use the U.S. Congress to close the PLO observer mission at the UN earlier this year, "is now engaged in a futile attempt to prevent Mr. Yaser Arafat from exercising the PLO chairman's right to access to the UN."

"What the 51 U.S. senators, whose mechanical response to the dictates of AIPAC is now familiar, are seeking is to cover up their failure to close the PLO mission at the UN," he said. "The PLO's right to access to the UN obviously includes the right of the chairman of the PLO to address the UN General Assembly."

Arafat has made no announcements about his plans, but he is widely expected to come to UN headquarters for a major speech in November. He has also been invited to speak at the U.S. National Press Club in Washington, D.C., but he has not responded to the invitation yet. The likelihood is that the Israeli lobby would use every means at its disposal to block any attempt to give Arafat permission to travel in the U.S. outside of New York.

"We are hopeful," Maksoud said, "that Secretary Shultz, in his characteristic deference to international law and the UN headquarters agreement, will resist this latest attempt to violate the rule of law."

the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on their national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital."

The leaflet added: "And let it be known to Israel that its might and its satellites are no more powerful than our stones and will not extinguish the light of hope in our children's eyes."

"Israel is not stronger than America, and our people are not weaker than the people of Vietnam."

Hailing the unarmed Palestinian warriors who have once and again eluded the Israeli army's dragnet, and reserving special praise for the young people who turned Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin's claim about the waning of the *intifada* into a joke by attacking him with stones and forcing him to run out of Gaza's Khan Yunis (see the September 30, 1988 issue of *intifada*), the leaflet urged the Palestinian people to escalate their protest action: organize strikes and marches against the

continued school closures and marking the beginning of the 11th month of the uprising (October 9); challenge the Jewish settlers who have stolen Palestinian land by attacking their vehicles and destroying their property; and, using whatever means are necessary, purge Palestinian ranks of any collaborators whose activities jeopardize the *intifada*.

Addressing the problem of the olive harvest, the Unified National Command instructed the Palestinians to resort to "collective harvesting" and to "make use of every Palestinian olive." The Israelis, who have "punished" the Palestinians by blocking the export of their plum and grape harvest, have said they plan to give the olive harvest this year the same treatment.

Stick together, the leaflet exhorted the Palestinians; help the people of towns and villages targeted by the Israelis; escalate the *intifada*, and victory is certain.



## The apartheid huddle

South African officers are in Israel, advising their allies on how to crush the uprising

South African military advisers are in Israel and the Occupied Territories, helping the Jewish state in its attempts to crush the Palestinian uprising, according to a senior British Conservative Party member of Parliament.

MP Tony Marlow, who recently visited Israel, the Occupied Territories and Jordan, told *Reuter* on September 25 that he and the colleagues who accompanied him on the trip had received reports that South African military advisers were helping the Israeli army quell the uprising.

### CAMPS

He told the *Jordan Times*: "We were given reports... that senior South African officers and generals were seen in civilian clothes walking around the (Palestinian refugee) camps with Israeli officers in uniform."

He said that according to the reports, the South African officers "were probably discussing what action to take to contain the *intifada*."

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, asked to comment on Marlow's report, refused to confirm or deny it.

### Point counterpoint

The Israeli authorities said on September 30 that Palestinian schools, which were scheduled to open October 1, would remain closed until November 15. Three hundred thousand students would be kept out of school, said an Israeli spokesman, to "avoid an increase in violence."

The *Intifada* says: The Israeli authorities, which have kept our universities closed since last December and our other schools closed for most of the 1987-88 academic year, should know by now that such measures will neither obstruct our children's education nor dampen the spirits of our people. Our children will work twice as hard, at home and in neighborhood classes, to complete their education. Our people will struggle twice as hard, in their camps, villages and cities, to shake off the Israeli yoke. It seems to us that it is the Israelis who need to be taught a few things, and we are the ones elected to teach them.

He said many foreign delegations had visited Israel and the Occupied Territories, but such visits were not publicized.

"I don't think we have to learn from anyone how to deal with such events," he added.

Under pressure from the U.S. Congress, which was itself responding to pressure from the sizeable American black community, Israel last year imposed what many U.S. blacks described as "theatrical sanctions" against South African and pledged to "gradually" end its secretive military relationship with Pretoria's internationally denounced apartheid regime.

The Israeli-South African relationship has continued, however, and although the cooperation between the two countries has been painstakingly ignored by the Jewish-dominated American press, it has contributed to the deteriorating relations between the Jewish and black communities in the U.S. Reports of increasing anti-semitism are coming from several major American cities with large black populations.

Israel and the Israeli lobby in Washington have often reacted sharply to charges by various American groups that Israeli treatment of the Palestinians is comparable to the white supremacists' treatment of the blacks in South Africa.

MP Marlow, who headed a three-member British parliamentary delegation visiting the Occupied Territories, said he and his colleagues learned much during the tour.

### ARROGANCE

"On the one hand," he said, "we saw the results of the handiwork of the Israeli Defense Forces -- their brutality, callousness and arrogance." On the other hand, they saw the "high morale and determination of the Palestinian people to achieve (self-determination) for themselves."

The *intifada*, Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank and the Iraq-Iran cease-fire had all taken the Israelis by surprise, and "now they don't know whether it's Tuesday or Friday," Marlow said. They were in such disarray that they had no real strategy and were trying to face the uprising with a policy of "containment, which is not really succeeding."

"All they are demonstrating over and over again," he said, "is their brutality (and) lack of care for the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. I am sure they are damaging their interests both within the Occupied Territories and outside."



## Rashad Shawwa, 'father of Gaza,' passes away

Thousands bid him farewell as he is buried wrapped in a Palestinian flag

The former mayor of Gaza was buried in his hometown on September 28, his body wrapped in a Palestinian flag.

Rashad Shawwa, who served as the mayor of Gaza for 11 years and was dismissed by the Israeli authorities in 1982, died of a heart attack on September 27, at the age of 79.

Scores of Israeli soldiers lined the streets as around 5,000 Gazans marched in Shawwa's funeral procession, and a number of Israeli officers tried to prevent the Shawwa family from wrapping his body in a Palestinian flag. The family insisted, and the officers finally withdrew, probably because of the presence of foreign diplomats at the funeral.

Among the foreign representatives present were diplomats from the Italian, French, Greek, Swedish, Romanian and American embassies and consulates.

Many more Palestinians would have been at the funeral had Israel, concerned about a show of Palestinian nationalism, not clamped a curfew on large parts of the Gaza Strip, including Gaza City's Shujai'a quarter, where most of Shawwa's supporters live. In spite of the curfew, the heavy Israeli armed presence and the many checkpoints that dotted the streets of Gaza, however, many masked Palestinian youths managed to make it to the cemetery, where they saw Shawwa off with chanted PLO slogans and waving Palestinian flags.

Born in Gaza, Shawwa graduated from the American University in Cairo with an economics degree in 1934. He was later appointed governor of the Gaza Strip by the British mandate authorities, but he resigned after two years and joined the Palestinian revolt against the British.

In the 40 years since then, he has been deeply involved in Palestinian political and civic affairs, and he was one of the few who warned the world that the *intifada* would erupt if nothing was done to stop Israeli repression of the Palestinians.

### TERROR

On November 17, less than a month before the uprising was sparked in the Gaza Strip, Shawwa told the Foreign Affairs Institute in Stockholm that the Palestinians "have been living under a reign of terror with Israel claiming more and more of our land... Israel has hundreds of dunums of land... (but) they chose to build new settlements in the Occupied Territories to render a solution to the Palestine problem practically impossible. Meanwhile, we have to live... under degradation and insult, under pressure, under the threat of being thrown out of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank... They are aiming at the extermination of the Palestinians and at driving them out of their native land to give it to Jews who are being brought from the four corners of the globe. We've been robbed of our human and national rights."

In March of this year, Shawwa warned in an interview that "even if the Israelis succeed in breaking the resistance physically, their tactics will not solve the problem of the occupation. The spirit of the people has simply changed."

Shawwa, whom the people of Gaza refer to as their "father," died before he could see his people's changed spirit achieve his and their goal: freedom from what he called "slavery to Israel."

## UK Democrats call for Palestinian statehood

Britain's Liberals and Social Democrats have recognized the Palestinian people's right to statehood and called for a UN-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East in which the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel are represented.

The landmark decision came in a resolution adopted by a vote of 600 to 50 at the first conference of the newly-merged party, renamed the Democrats, held in Blackpool last week.

"The Conference," the resolution reads, "notes with concern the widespread uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Conference recognizes the right of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples to statehood and self-determination and the right of all states in the area to secure and internationally-recognized borders."

It adds: "The Conference calls on the British Government to support the convening of a United Nations-sponsored International Conference on the Middle East where all parties concerned, including Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, can participate in working out a political solution to the conflict."

The Liberal Palestine Group, one of whose members, Barbara Janke, wrote and proposed the resolution, held its annual fund-raising revue later the same day, pledging part of the proceeds to Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP).



## Rash of 'Palestinian army' parades worries Israelis

In Nablus, the West Bank, it has become a weekly event, anxiously awaited by the people and dreaded by the Israeli troops: a parade of hundreds of unarmed, uniformed Palestinian "troops."

The youths march through the winding streets with a picture of Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yaser Arafat preceding them and scores of Palestinian flags held high over their heads.

The streets are lined with cheering crowds as the parade thunders by, headed for the Merchants' Market in the town center.

This reporter was there on September 22, as the largest parade so far materialized out of thin air.

Nablus leaders explained that every neighborhood in the city, which has become known as "the heart of the *intifada*" (East Jerusalem is known as its "brain"), organizes its own unit of 20 to 30 youths who wear their choice of "uniform" like white T-shirts with black pants or red jumpsuits. All cover their face either with Palestinian *keffiyehs* that leave only their eyes showing, or with masks in the colors of the Palestinian

flag, and still others with black clothes in which holes have been cut for the eyes, nose and mouth.

The units converge on a pre-arranged spot, where a designated commander addresses a few words of encouragement to the "troops" and gives the word for the parade to begin.

"March in step!" the commander said through a megaphone. "Let the earth shake under your feet!"

### SPEECH

On both sides of the road, young men cheered, women ululated, and elderly men shouted words of encouragement and blessing as the "army" marched to the center of the marketplace, where it came to a halt and heard a speech by its commander.

Reading a statement on behalf of the Unified National Command of the Uprising, the commander saluted the mothers of the Palestinians who had fallen during the *intifada* and assured them that their sons had not died in vain.

"The struggle," he said, "will continue until the occupation ends and the independent state of Palestine is created."

As the parade resumed, winding back to its point of origin, the Israelis struck.

Israeli troops are generally reluctant to venture into the old quarter of Nablus, where the narrow, winding streets put them to a disadvantage, turning them into easy targets for stone-wielding youths on the surrounding roofs. When they do come, they come in strength, as they did that Thursday. They arrived shooting live ammunition, and the Palestinian youths dispersed, seeking strategic positions from which to launch a stone counterattack. In the uneven confrontation that ensued, 11 Palestinians were wounded.

### KAFR THULTH

In its 26th leaflet, distributed September 26, the Unified National Command of the Uprising referred specifically to Nablus' September 22 parade, hailing it as an event that marked "the birth of the future Palestinian popular army" and urging other towns and villages in the Occupied Territories to emulate it.

The advice was heeded immediately, and parades were organized in various parts of the territories, including the village of Kafr Thulth near Kalkilya, where 50 youths marched to the cheers of the villagers on September 29.

Hoping to nip the trend in the bud, the Israeli army raided Kafr Thulth that same night. Troops broke into homes and forced residents out in the streets, where they were ordered to remove roadblocks and erase the nationalist graffiti that covered the village's walls.

### Point counterpoint

*Meir Kahane said* to his followers: "I know where I'm going." That was on September 28, while Kahane, leader of the Israeli party that wants to throw all Arabs out of Israel and the Occupied Territories, was leading a procession of several dozen cars through Jerusalem's streets, looking for a way to Hebron. Every road he took, however, led to a deadend, and he and his followers finally went home.

*The Intifada says:* Meir Kahane knows where he's going about as well as the rest of Israel knows where it's going. Sooner or later, the Israelis will find out that the road they have taken toward the crushing of the *intifada* and the usurpation of the Palestinian people's national land and rights is a deadend.

*Moshe Duek said* last week that he was running for the Israeli Knesset and had as good a chance as any of getting elected. Duek was committed to a mental institution in 1957, after throwing a hand grenade into the Knesset's meeting hall, and was released recently.

*The Intifada says:* Judging by the mental state of the Israeli leaders who have been trying to wipe out the entire people of Palestine and their right to live as free human beings, we agree with Mr. Duek that he is no less deserving of a Knesset seat than any Israeli leader who is now guaranteed one.