

Land, The Central Issue of Zionist Strategy

March 30th marked the eighth anniversary of the Day of the Land. The historical background of this day relates to the struggle against land confiscation in the Galilee. In the commemoration of this day, the Galilee symbolizes all Palestinian and Arab land. On this day, we also commemorate the martyrdom of six Palestinians, who were killed by the Zionists on March 30, 1976, in the Galilee. They in turn represent the hundreds of martyrs who have fallen in defense of their land and national rights.

The question of land has always been the central theme of Zionism's strategy and plans. The Zionists' ambitions for controlling the land and resources of the area have been cloaked under their basic myth: the false concept of «a land without people for a people without a land». In its search for a state, the Zionist movement eventually chose Palestine as opposed to other proposed sites. This choice was in accordance with imperialist aims and interests in the Middle East. Yet the Zionists still adhere to their myth, and this has led to five wars and subjected the entire region to chronic instability, which threatens world peace.

Since its establishment in May 1948, the Zionist state has derived the bulk of its socio-economic and military policies from the principle of land appropriation. This includes the promotion of Jewish immigration, the expulsion of native Palestinians and the waging of expansionist wars. From the time of the first Zionist Congress in 1897, the Jewish Agency employed all its resources to buy land in order to establish Jewish settlements. The original Zionist land acquisitions were from feudalists and absentee landlords, such as the Lebanese Sursok family, who made the biggest single land sale. Since the Palestinian peasants on the whole refused to sell, only about 8% of Palestine's land was owned by Jews by 1947. Thus, Zionism's built-in logic of violent aggression came into force as the primary means of obtaining «a land without a people». The ultimate thrust of this logic is genocidal, as has been evidenced by repeated Zionist massacres from Deir Yassin in 1948, to Sabra-Shatila in 1982.

Immigration - expansion - emigration

Through collaboration with the British colonialists, Jewish immigration to Palestine increased in preparation for usurping and colonizing the land. To this day, Jewish immigration and emptying the land of the original inhabitants is the most important element of Zionist strategy, which aims to control the land in order to create «Greater Israel». The Zionists' adoption of this goal made all Palestinian and Arab land a target. The concept of «Greater Israel» was not born in an era of Israeli 'supremacy', nor as a result of the 1967 expansion, but was present prior to the establishment of the Zionist entity. In 1937, Ben

Gurion, who was to become the first Premier of 'Israel', submitted a report to the Zionist Congress, which outlined the boundaries of the planned state as including:

- South Lebanon to the Litani River
- Southern Syria passing through Homs, Hama and the Assi River
- The east bank of the Jordan River
- All of Mandate Palestine
- The Sinai

The successively adopted laws, which serve as the Israeli constitution, make no mention of the state's boundaries. Obviously, Ben Gurion, and the Zionist leadership generally, viewed the borders established in 1948 as only a step towards the boundaries of «Greater Israel».

Zionist strategy has proceeded in accordance with a clear formula: immigration (of Jews) - expansion - emigration (of Palestinian Arabs). Between immigration and expansion comes aggression and land confiscation to impose a new de facto situation until the next cycle starts. Since expansion is a central aim, military power is a central means. Besides being used to drive Palestinians out, aggression draws large contributions from Jews around the world and the imperialist states, who extend economic support prior to a new war. Aggression also increases the flow of immigration which may have been receding. Thus, the flow of immigration on - expansion - emigration is applied; military power confiscates the land; the money contributed is invested; and the new immigrants settle in the newly usurped land.

If we quickly review the reasons for the June 1967 aggression and ensuing aggressions, we find the following specific reasons in addition to Zionism's inherent racism and expansionism:

- the Israeli state's small geographical area;
- the noticeable decrease of immigration prior to the 1967 invasion;
- the decrease in Israeli exports;
- the rise in unemployment and financial deficit, and the decrease in economic growth.

Ever since the 1967 aggression, the Israeli authorities have been working to confiscate the occupied land, especially in the West Bank, chiefly under false «security» pretexts or

simply by declaring it «state» land. This is supplemented by an array of aggressive and oppressive measures, including the demolition of Palestinian homes, increased taxation, economic restrictions on the Palestinian inhabitants, etc. All in all, they aim to force the Palestinian Arabs to emigrate. Through this policy the Zionists had established about 144 settlements in the 1967 occupied territories by the end of 1983; 107 of these are in the West Bank.

According to the Israeli newspaper, *Haaretz*, September 20, 1983, «Approximately 55-60% of all West Bank land is now classified as 'state land', so that the authorities can claim it at any time...i.e., most of the land of the West Bank is under the control of the authorities.»

Obviously, plans such as 'autonomy' and 'civil' administration are only other means to achieve the same end. Such plans are part of the Israeli political strategy vis-a-vis the 1967 occupied territories, and clear expressions of the Israeli desire to annex the remaining land of Palestine and liquidate the Palestinian national identity in the face of international community. This way the dream of the world Zionist movement can be fulfilled - the achievement of «Greater Israel» from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Resistance compounds the Zionist dilemma

In spite of this clear strategy and Israeli military supremacy, the battle continues between the occupation authorities and the Palestinian masses. While our masses' heroic resistance is unable to demolish the Zionist project, it is sufficient to create great obstacles for the enemy, and these obstacles will accumulate in the future. The ongoing resistance of our people under occupation is the real reason behind the resignation of Menachem Milsom, who was in charge of implementing 'civil' administration in the West Bank, and then of his successor, Eli Shlomo. At the same time, the Palestinian national position buried these civil administrators' other pet project: the village leagues, which were nurtured by the Israeli authorities to be an alternative to the PLO.

Various Israeli newspapers have noted the relationship between the failure of 'civil' administration and the so-called Operation Peace for the Galilee, i.e., the invasion of Lebanon, which was intended to finish off the PLO as a means of imposing 'civil' administration. While this was for the purpose of

Repression...Interrogation



annexing the West Bank especially, the invasion also aimed at occupying Lebanese land, and at a minimum annexing the water resources of the South, i.e., the Litani River. Here we can see the direct relation between the Zionist state's expansionist wars and the confiscation of the land, and also the relation between Israeli-style «peace» and their central theme of land acquisition. The real word for this «peace» is expansion. Moreover, if one reviews the Israeli «peace» proposals since 1948, whether forwarded by Labor or Likud, one finds no substantial differences. The apparent differences are only related to the rationale for their policies. Both parties have followed a policy based on military power and aggression, and both have exerted maximum efforts to annex the 1967 occupied territories.

Cracks in the myth

It is clear that our enemy has invested tremendous efforts through material, political and military means, in order to fulfill the Zionist myth. However, their failure to achieve the «land without a people» exposes this myth. All the fascist methods applied have failed to empty the land of its original inhabitants. Instead the Zionists' difficulties have accumulated to the point that even some of the most dogmatic have begun to sense that the «desert» is not blooming under their feet, and that the Zionist dream is an illusion. The Zionist leadership faces a dilemma since many of the «people» for whom they usurped the land are now escaping. Immigration policy is in an increasing contradiction. Settlements built on stolen land remain as ghost towns, as was stated in the Israeli newspaper, *Yediot Aharonot*. A report written by an Israeli, Ouzi Narkis, attributes the crisis facing Jewish immigration to the following factors:

- the low number of immigrants from western states;
- increasing emigration, including recent immigrants who soon leave «the promised land»;
- the question of security and the fear of war;
- the lessening of «nationalist» feelings;
- living conditions in 'Israel' and the difficulty of finding work.

No solution with Zionism

In celebrating Land Day, it does not behove us to underestimate the sources of our enemy's strength, nor to exaggerate its weaknesses. Rather we must base our views and struggle on objective facts about the existence of Zionism. The basic objective fact is the continuation and deepening of the major contradiction between the Zionist project and the Arab identity, not only of Palestine but of all Arab land. Day after day, it is confirmed that the Arab-Zionist conflict is a struggle for existence and not for specific geographical boundaries. For this reason, the contradiction will not be resolved until one or the other party is eliminated. There will be no solution to the conflict until its cause, the Zionist project, disappears and the Arab land is restored.

Day of the Land Celebrations

No to Occupation, No to Capitulation

On the eighth anniversary of the Day of the Land, our Palestinian masses in occupied Palestine renewed their commitment to the struggle and expressed their determination to remain on their land.

On this occasion, throughout all of Palestine, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; in the Galilee, the Triangle and Naqab, the Palestinian voices were shouting slogans of unity against occupation and all its repressive racist policies. Other slogans were asserting the Palestinian strong will and determination to continue the struggle in all its forms till liberation. Also, slogans were raised condemning the practices of the right wing Palestinians and their deviating trend.

Prior to the Day of the Land various demonstrations and protests took place leading to the special events of the day. Our masses went out in the streets singing Palestinian national songs, raising Palestinian flags and burning tires to make road blocks. The occupation authorities, had admitted that the demonstrations were quite large. A Zionist military spokesperson admitted that three soldiers were wounded when their military car was hit by a hand grenade in the Jabaliyah camp in the Gaza Strip. At the same time, Palestinian sources asserted that seven Palestinian nationalists had been wounded by Zionist soldiers who fired at the camp residents who had gathered soon after the above mentioned incident.

At the same time, the Zionist soldiers fired at a demonstration in the Ein Beit Alma camp near Nablus, which led to the injury of two Palestinian youths, Naser and Hassan Mohammed Ahmad Saed. There were also various clashes between Palestinian nationalists and the Zionist authorities in the West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinian press agency in

Jerusalem stated that the occupation authorities fired bullets and used tear gas to disperse mass demonstrations in the Aljalazon camp near Ramallah, after camp residents closed the camp entrance with burning tires.

The agency also stated that a Palestinian student had been wounded in the town of Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem, when the enemy attempted to disperse demonstrators. The Zionist authorities admitted that they had ordered the closure of one of the secondary schools in the town, after the Israeli patrol cars had been stoned. The enemy also admitted that one of its soldiers had been injured when his patrol car was stoned in the town of Halhool near Hebron.

Simultaneously, the Zionist authorities conducted large scale arrests in the West Bank and Gaza, which were turned into Israeli military

barracks as was described by the press agency.

Reports coming from the occupied territories stated that on the eve of the eighth anniversary of the Day of the Land, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were turned into real grounds of war. The report added that the Palestinian nationalists challenged the Israeli bullets with stones and iron rods. The report asserted that the Zionist military ruler of Nablus was injured when his car was bombarded with stones. Also, it was reported that the demonstrators used loud speakers to broadcast the national and folk songs.

In the town of Sikhnin, in the central Galilee, various demonstrations were held where Palestinian flags were raised. The enemy radio broadcast stated that the demonstrators closed all the main roads leading to the villages and towns of Galilee.

The people of Galilee demonstrate against repressive policies





Putting off fires of angry Palestinian masses

TIMED BOMBS:

In Jerusalem, a Zionist military spokesperson declared that experts had dismantled two bombs that were discovered shortly before they exploded. One of these bombs was found in a central car garage on the road to Bethlehem, while the other was discovered in the railroad station in Jerusalem. Soon after the news was revealed, the Zionists frantically warned of 'unfamiliar objects' which may contain bombs.

The occupation authorities increased their military presence in the West Bank and Gaza while helicopters were used to intimidate the nationalists and to repress all demonstrations. The enemy declared a state of emergency in the Galilee. According to Zionist sources, the authorities closed all roads connecting the 1967 occupied territories and the rest of the occupied lands in an attempt to stop the West Bank residents from participating in the Day of the Land celebrations in Galilee. Obviously, all their efforts were in vain.

THE 30th OF MARCH

At the dawn of March 30th, the Palestinian people started their celebra-

tions. Demonstrators throughout the occupied homeland affirmed their united position to stand firm against all the enemy's repressive and oppressive measures. They vowed to continue their resistance of occupation and struggle for their national independence.

In spite of the fact that the Zionist authorities had rallied more forces to repress the demonstrations and used all methods of terror, yet our masses rendered the enemy a heavy blow through their many large demonstrations. The sons and daughters of Palestine in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Nazareth gathered to say in one united voice «no to occupation».

Throughout Galilee and the surrounding towns, three major demonstrations and rallies were held under the two main slogans of «It is the right of the Palestinian Arabs to have their own independent state» and «Israeli soldiers out of Lebanon».

The enemy, as usual, opened fire on the demonstrators in the various Palestinian cities and camps seriously injuring four nationalists of whom one was critically wounded. Palestinian sources in the occupied homeland stated that twenty five year old Ahmad Salman was critically wounded in the

Balata camp near Nablus. In addition, the source stated that two others were injured in Jenin and a fourth Palestinian youth named Yaser Nizal (17), was wounded in Qabattiyah.

An Israeli TV cameraman was injured in the town of Sakhnin in the Galilee during one of the celebrations when attacked by the attendants after they warned him not to take their pictures.

Sakhnin witnessed a demonstration that marched through the streets of the town to the graveyards where three of the town's martyrs who were shot in the first celebration of the Day of the Land in 1976, were buried.

A similar demonstration took place in the town of al Tibah in Galilee, where the demonstrators sang 'Beladi...Beladi' (my country, my country), which is the PLO's national anthem. They also carried banners stating «the people of Palestine». The walls of the town were covered with slogans and Palestinian flags.

Also the village of Araba in Galilee witnessed similar demonstrations and according to a Zionist spokesperson, «many incidents took place in the Western Galilee, including arrests in the village of Baqat after its residents raised the Palestinian flag». The residents of the Golan Heights also participated in the demonstrations and rallies that took place in North Palestine.

Palestinian sources in the occupied homeland mentioned that the occupation authorities fired on demonstrations that were held in the camps of Balatta and Kalandia. The demonstrators confronted the Zionist forces with stones in various places in the West Bank and Galilee and raised the Palestinian flag in the middle of Nablus.

1,525 ARRESTS:

During two days, the number of the Palestinians arrested in the West Bank alone reached 724 individuals. Among them there were sixteen school and university female students, twenty seven

CELEBRATION IN WEST BERLIN

On March 24th, a celebration was held in West Berlin in anticipation of the Day of the Land. It was sponsored by the General Union of Arab students and attended by large numbers of supporters of the Palestinian revolution, from among the Palestinian and Arab community and progressive Germans. The program included Palestinian national folkdance and song, as well as speeches delivered on behalf of the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and the Lebanese Communist Party. A common theme in the speeches was affirmation of the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and emphasis on the importance of unity in the PLO. All violations of the decisions of the Palestinian National Council were condemned, as was Arafat's visit to Cairo.



women of whom four were over the age of fifty five. The reports from the occupied land stated that these prisoners were transported in trucks to Al far'a prison near Nablus.

In the Gaza Strip, the number of prisoners reached 472, including seven women, one of them a sixty year old woman. There were also two female students and nine men over sixty years of age.

In the Triangle and Galilee, 329 nationalists were arrested, among them 13 girls and women.

The reports from the occupied lands estimated the enemy's loss in the West Bank, the Triangle, and Galilee, during these celebrations, to have exceeded one hundred destroyed cars. Among them are the cars of the military rulers of Nablus and Ramallah. In addition to that, the telephone lines in the settlements were all cut off and Zionist flags were burned. This is not to mention the number of soldiers that were wounded.

THE SECOND DAY OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS

Our masses with full strength carried their celebration through to the following day. Zionist sources admitted that for the second consecutive day, the army and police were engaged in direct confrontation with the demonstrators.

These demonstrations and confrontations took place in Beir Zeit University near Ramallah, Kalandia camp near Jerusalem and Duhisha camp near Bethlehem. Palestinian sources mentioned that an Arab youth was injured by the enemy's bullets when they were trying to disperse the demonstration in Dahisha camp. The youth was Mirwan Amer al-Attar (14), and was taken to the Palestine Hospital for treatment.

According to news reporters, Beir Zeit University witnessed a tough battle with the occupation forces. The students built barricades of stones and burned tires at the university entrance, thereby closing the way in front of the enemy. They were also chanting anti-occupation slogans and raised Palestinian flags. The occupation authorities closed the university area after seizing it, and ordered its closure. It also arrested many of its students and wounded one with bullets as they fired on the crowd of students.

During this time, the Gaza Islamic University was also experiencing similar activities and was also seized.

Indeed, the Day of the Land this year witnessed outstanding mass demonstrations and celebrations throughout all of the occupied lands. The heroic military operations that were carried out separately by PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of

Palestine, were qualitative in nature. They both challenged and defeated all the enemy's security measures. The PFLP freedom fighters shelled the Zionist settlements in Galilee and seized a bus and DFLP commandos carried out the Jerusalem operations, making the grounds tremble under the feet of the Zionists.

The Day of the Land has always been the symbol of the unity of our Palestinian masses everywhere in spite of the great geographical distances of separation. Our people especially under occupation through their daily resistance and the special activities of the Day of the Land affirmed their national identity and resistance to occupation. They were able to put an end to the Zionist false propaganda of «there is no such thing as Palestinians». The Day of the Land this year was full of resistance and demonstrations combined with two major military operations that affirmed our people's determination to continue their struggle till victory. The celebrations this year came to indicate that our people who have been denied their homeland and right of self-determination and have been subjected to the stick and carrot policy have not diverted from their national path. They stand united to challenge all those that deny their national identity, or claim it to themselves. ●