

took almost a quarter of the vote, enabling it to influence other rightists in the council to fire all Palestinians employed by the settlement according to the original Zionist slogan «Jewish Labor Only». Also symptomatic of the racist campaign was Interior Minister Peretz's attempt to stop a program in Israeli schools to create understanding between Jewish and Arab children.

Assaults on Palestinians have occurred in all parts of the occupied homeland. In the South, a Palestinian doctor and three nurses were subject to an unprovoked physical attack on August 30th in Beersheba, necessitating their hospitalization. The next night all the windows in their hospital residence were smashed. On August 25th, a Palestinian girl was wounded by an Israeli soldier who shot «accidentally» in the occupied Gaza Strip. On August 8th, Kahane thugs threw stones at Palestinian cars passing a settlement on the road to Hebron; several people were injured. On August 15th, about 20 Israeli soldiers surrounded a group of Palestinian farmers working on their land near Sakhnin; the soldiers fired their guns and beat the farmers, injuring two children, a youth and three women, one of whom was 75 years old. No incident preceded this assault which appeared to be premeditated. Another revealing incident occurred to an Israeli woman trying to reach Ramallah for a demonstration against deportation of Palestinians; she was repeatedly stopped and harassed by Israeli soldiers, and had a gun pointed at her by one. Another officer

interfered and told her that had she been an Arab, he would have killed her instantly. (as reported in *Al Fajr*, August 16th.)

### State of emergency

At this writing a veritable state of emergency reigns in the West Bank in particular. On August 4th, the Israeli cabinet officially readopted the iron fist policy in the 1967 occupied territories: reinstatement of administrative detention and deportation without trial; closure of Arab newspapers «that violate censorship» and Palestinian institutions that encourage nationalism; expansion of prison facilities. As of September 3rd, 62 residents of the occupied territories were being administratively detained; dozens are facing deportation orders, including 30 newly released political prisoners. The targets of the repression show that the occupation authorities are not simply countering the rise in resistance operations. They are rather taking a new opportunity to round up activists and impose collective punishment to subdue the population at large. Most of those targeted in the West Bank are students or former political prisoners. The Zionists are trying to remove from the midst of the people those with advanced knowledge and experience to inspire and organize mass struggle. This was especially apparent on August 6 when the occupation authorities rounded up four students from Al Najah University, a few days after it was closed just prior to scheduled student elections. The same

day the authorities moved to deport a number of former detainees.

On August 30th, roadblocks were set up throughout the West Bank, spreading the state of siege that had been imposed more locally the previous days with the four-day curfew of Jenin and Tulkarm after the August 24th killing of the Israeli settler Andre Alush in Tulkarm and the shooting of another settler in Jenin. The Israeli reaction was massive: thousands of Palestinians were interrogated and dozens arrested. Earlier in August, Nablus residents suffered a four-day curfew and travel restrictions continued all month.

It is clear that the racists are snatching at any opportunity to promote their long-harbored political goals. The six Knesset members who occupied a house in the center of Hebron's market, August 15-20th, openly stated their goal: preventing negotiations with the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. At the same time Levinger and his Gush Emunim settlers went on a rampage in the market, overturning the stalls of the Palestinian vendors. The Palestinian revolutionaries who stabbed two Israeli soldiers guarding the house after the MKs' exit, pointed responsibility to where it belonged: The MKs were only able to stage their house occupation due to the facilities offered by the nearby army post. Gush Emunim was also allowed to stage a massive demonstration outside Tulkarm on September 2nd, on the pretext of mourning Andre Alush, but actually intended to threaten Palestinians. ►

*Youth interrogated during Tulkarm curfew*

