

Popular Front denounces Israel's 'negotiation' trap

From www.pftp.ps/english

Comrade Jamil Mizher, member of the Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, called for a total rejection of Arab and international pressure to return to negotiations, saying that such negotiations only play into the hands of the Zionist enemy.

Comrade Mizher, speaking with *Aljazeera.net* on January 4, 2009, said that a return to the futile and harmful negotiations that even the Palestinian Authority leadership itself have recognised are unsuccessful would only serve Israeli interests. He said further that relying on the US administration, which is fully aligned with the occupation, is betting on mirage and illusion. Comrade Mizher called upon Arab countries to support restoration of Palestinian national unity and put pressure on the occupation, not pressure Palestinians to serve the interests of Israel.

The PFLP further condemned these attempts to push Palestinians into negotiations with the occupier,



East Jerusalem and the apartheid wall

responding to the occupation authorities' decision to build a new colony in the Mount of Olives overlooking Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock and the Old City. The PFLP statement said that this action represents the strategic plan of the occupier to intensify settlements and Judaize Jerusalem and impose transfer upon Palestinians by forcing Palestinians into isolated, impoverished areas in an attempt to impose the so-called unified capital of the state of

occupation and racism upon Jerusalem.

The statement said that merely ending negotiations is not sufficient to confront the occupation power, emphasising the utter disregard for international law on the part of the occupier and saying that Arab regimes and the international community are silent and complicit in the face of the occupation crimes while pushing negotiations, while the United States and the Quartet directly push the occupation agenda.

The Front emphasised that a complete rejection of the 'peace process' and a comprehensive review of the entire Oslo process, including an end to the so-called 'transitional phase' and security cooperation is necessary. Furthermore, the PFLP emphasized the need to develop a united national strategy and unify the Palestinian house on the basis of democracy, comprehensive national dialogue, and rebuilding the PLO on the basis of national principles, protecting the inalienable rights of our people to freedom, self-determination and return.

The PFLP denounced the pressures designed to push Palestinians into the endless maze of negotiations, saying that any such process is a pursuit of a deceptive, misleading American and Israeli mirage. It demanded instead that the parties engaged in this pressure instead put pressure on the occupier to lift the siege on Gaza, rescue people trapped by disease, poverty and hunger, who lack the most basic elements of life, and to free thousands of Palestinian prisoners, and to bring occupation war criminals to trial before criminal courts.

Palestinians struggle on three fronts

by **Bill F.**

Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem are all key focal points of the just struggle for a Palestinian state. In spite of the difficulties, the Palestinian people continue their resistance.

In **Gaza**, twelve months after the murderous Israeli assault that killed 1300 people and destroyed thousands of homes and most of the infrastructure, the long-suffering people were cheered by the arrival of a section of the Viva Palestina convoy, bringing humanitarian medical and relief aid from all over the world. This powerful expression of international solidarity with the

Palestinian people was harassed, obstructed and delayed, not only by the Israeli government, but also by the pro-US governments of Jordan and Egypt.

Egypt, with the blessing of US imperialism, has collaborated shamelessly with the reactionary Israeli government by constructing an underground 'wall' to prevent the use of tunnels to bring badly needed food and supplies into the Gaza 'ghetto'.

West Bank water

In the West Bank, a World Bank report has accused Israel of using four times more water than Palestinians from the

Mountain Aquifer that straddles Israel and the territory.

Palestinians are being denied access in order to force them off their land, and are forced to rely on precious drinking water to irrigate their farms. Badran Jaber, a Palestinian farmer from the village of al-Baqa, told *Al Jazeera* "We were surprised by a large group of soldiers and settlers who surrounded the entire area." We asked them "Why are you doing this and what do you want? They refused to speak to us. "Men who came with the soldiers stormed the field and pulled out all the irrigation pipes, destroying the crops."

Nader al-Khateeb, the director of Friends of the Earth in the Middle East, told *Al Jazeera* "We are under occupation and everything is restricted by Israeli procedures. This policy is not a new policy; there are lots of examples of Israel trying to force Palestinians to leave their land so settlements can expand easily. This is an organised Israeli policy designed to prevent the development of the Palestinian economy – knowing that agriculture is a major sector within the economy." Amnesty International released a report titled *Troubled waters - Palestinians denied fair access to water*, which exposed how Israel is denying Palestinians adequate access to clean, safe water while allowing almost

unlimited supplies to Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank.

"Swimming pools, well-watered lawns and large irrigated farms in Israeli settlements ... stand in stark contrast next to Palestinian villages whose inhabitants struggle even to meet their domestic water needs." Amnesty said between 180,000 and 200,000 Palestinians in West Bank rural communities have no access to running water, while taps in other areas often run dry.

East Jerusalem

The reactionary Israeli government continues to use violence, intimidation, bribery and legalistic threats to force Palestinian families out of East Jerusalem. Encouraged by the government and the half-hearted weasel words of US President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton and the grinning envoy Mitchell, fanatical armed settler gangs are allowed to run loose while the police and authorities turn a blind eye. So much for the 'roadmap' and the 'settlement freeze' and all the other hollow promises!

This 'ethnic cleansing' is even more shameful when it reminds the world of the terrible suffering of the Jewish people during the past century.

