

## Ten Years of Armed Struggle

- With guns firmly in their hands, the Palestinian people have in the last decade repulsed Israeli Zionist suppression and smashed the disruptive schemes of the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, and thus made important contributions to Palestine revolution and the Arab people's liberation cause.

TEN years have elapsed since the Palestinian people started their armed struggle against Israeli Zionism and for the restoration of their legitimate national rights.

On January 1, 1965, heroic Palestinian sons and daughters fired the first shots in the armed struggle in Israeli-occupied Galilee, thus initiating a new stage in the Palestinian people's liberation movement.

### Excellent Situation Created With Gun

Israeli aggression has caused millions of Palestinian people to become homeless and live in misery. Although some Palestinian personages went about the world campaigning for the restoration of their national rights, Israel stepped up its aggression and the superpowers used no end of tricks against them. As regards the important Palestine question concerning the national rights of millions of people, the United Nations, which was manipulated by the superpowers in the past, regarded it simply as a "refugee question," presuming it could be written off by the offer of a sum as compensation.

The Palestinian people's armed struggle has frustrated the enemy's schemes. Today, the guerrillas have become an important revolutionary force in the Middle East, enjoying ever higher prestige in Arab

countries and the rest of the world. Students in the Arab countries often are in the streets raising funds for the Palestine resistance movement, workers contribute part of their wages to the guerrillas, women knit sweaters for them and many people apply to the hospitals to be blood donors for the guerrilla forces. Moreover, fighting shoulder to shoulder with the guerrillas are many young Arab people, some of whom have given their lives for the Palestine liberation cause. In October 1974, the Arab Summit Conference adopted a resolution reaffirming the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In November, the 29th Session of the U.N. General Assembly adopted two important resolutions, affirming the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty without outside interference and inviting the PLO to participate as an observer in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly. The Palestinian people are fully aware that the excellent situation results from their protracted armed struggle and grows out of the barrel of a gun.

### Growing Up in Struggle

The people's armed forces have developed and grown steadily in the difficult conditions and along a tortuous course. Numerically small in 1965, they could then mount an attack about every three days. They have become stronger and stronger through fighting. The guerrilla forces launched 2,390 attacks in 1969, and 2,256 attacks in 1970, averaging more than six a day. In the two years, Palestinian guerrillas penetrating deep into the heartland of the Israeli regime, launched surprise attacks on the camps and military installations of the enemy, and threw them into confusion.

Bitterly hating and mortally afraid of the guerrillas' struggle which had aroused the world's attention, the enemy twice launched massive suppressions of the guerrillas, first in September 1970 and then in July 1971. The guerrillas lost their base in Jordan. But the Palestinian people, persevering in their armed struggle and surmounting all difficulties, continued to strike hard at the Israeli aggressors.

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Palestinian guerrilla fighters training for close-range fighting against the enemy.

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During the October Middle East War of 1973, the guerrillas demonstrated their courage and power when they penetrated into the Israeli rear area, blasted enemy highways and bridges, and demolished enemy fuel and ammunition depots. This effectively tied down the enemy and supported the Syrian and Egyptian troops in their war against aggression.

### **Vigilant Against the Two Superpowers**

Always regarding the Middle East as a choice morsel, U.S. imperialism and Soviet revisionism have been locked in a scramble for it, trying to expand spheres of influence there and stamp out the flames of the Arab national-liberation struggle. They have tried by hook or by crook to remove the "thorn in their flesh," the Palestinian armed forces which represent a big obstacle to the realization of their schemes. They have trotted out a "proposal" today and a "plan" tomorrow, trying to entice the Palestinian people to

lay down their arms. U.S. imperialism has consistently backed Israeli aggression and opposed Palestinian people's armed struggle and the people's recovery of lost territories and return to their homeland. Soviet revisionist social-imperialism is more cunning. For years it has slandered the armed struggle persisted in by the Palestinian people as "riots." But now it pretends to "support" their armed struggle, harbouring the ulterior motive of using the Palestinian armed forces as gambling chip in its contention with U.S. imperialism in the Middle East and thus finally realizing its vicious scheme of putting out the flames of the Palestine revolution.

The two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, are now stepping up their rivalry and making trouble in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the Israeli aggressors are biding their time for new aggression. The struggle by the Palestinian and other Arab people remains protracted and tortuous. Firmly holding their guns, the Palestinian people are keeping a vigilant eye on the developing situation.

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