

They told me that there is no way to go but the policy of Ze'evi, which is, "You Palestinians must leave this area and go to Jordan; this area is only for the Jews." They told me, "Look we were waiting and dreaming for the moment that we could meet you, just to kill you, but now we would like to talk." So they didn't kill me. But I believe even those people who are saying all of these things are saying them because of the influence of their government, their parties, against us. I'm sure that after my talk with those soldiers, their attitude changed completely. Unfortunately, Israel is ruled right now by a government which is the main obstacle and the main element against peace and any political solution.

**EIR:** Is the policy continuing of firing large numbers of Palestinians and replacing them by Soviet Jews?

**Husseini:** Yes. Not only this. Now our laborers are losing their work inside Israel. So there is no more income for these laborers. At the same time, our people who had been working in the Gulf, and who sent their money to us, also have lost their jobs and their ability to send money. So they came back here to try to find jobs, and now the number of unemployed has become even greater. Third, those people in the Gulf who were sending money for their families that lived here, are now themselves in a desperate situation in Amman or Kuwait and other places, and so we are funding them ourselves and sending them our money.

At the same time, because of the curfews inside the West Bank and Gaza strip, because of this policy of cutting the West Bank and Gaza strip into zones which can't communicate with each other, we cannot send the production of one zone into another. People cannot travel to their factories, to their fields. What we are seeing is a complete destruction of the economy. People have no money to buy, and so the producer is not able to produce, and closes his factory. Now we are really in need of international protection, the implementation of the Geneva Convention [protecting refugees], and not to be left to the Israeli government. This is the responsibility of the U.N. and the U.S., because the U.S. came up with the idea, this idea of a new order, this idea of respect for Security Council resolutions, and U.N. resolutions, and international legitimacy. The only thing we are asking of the Israelis to respect these things, to respect international legitimacy by respecting the Geneva Convention, to respect the U.N. by respecting their resolutions and withdrawing from these areas, and to allow peace in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, we see that until now the Americans are not really pushing. When the matter concerns the Palestinians, they are so tough. Even if it comes to a Security Council resolution against Israel, the U.S. will not use their veto. But, after that, we do not see the U.S. actually push to implement these Security Council resolutions. This is a disaster. Everyone here feels that there is a double standard again in dealing with matters in this area.

## Palestinians and the 'new world order'

by Hanna Siniora

*The following article has been made available for English language publication in EIR by Mr. Siniora, the editor of the Jerusalem Arabic daily Al-Fajr.*

What do Palestinians in the Occupied Territories think about the "new world order" that everyone is talking about? Do they feel that it would open up the possibility of solving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in a manner guaranteeing their inalienable rights, particularly those of self-determination and statehood? *Al-Fajr* interviewed Palestinians from all walks of life in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

**Hilmi Hanoun**, mayor of Tulkarm, said that the "new world order" people refer to is still so unclear that it is difficult to judge its impact. What is important, he said, is not to deviate from the current track of pursuing international legitimacy. The Palestinian issue, he said, is a test case for the world community.

**Bashir al-Barghouthi**, editor-in-chief of the Jerusalem-based Arabic weekly *Al-Tali'a*, thinks the Palestinian question will not be long at the top of a priorities list for the American administration. He foresees the Americans spending more time strengthening the alliance they established against Iraq and turning it into a strategic coalition. He said the strategic alliance will most likely tackle internal problems and avoid anything the members of the alliance may not be ready to handle, namely an American solution to the Palestinian question. Barghouthi sees the Americans strengthening the alliance by allowing it to work toward common goals, first and foremost being the establishment of a military-economic alliance already under way; toppling the Iraqi regime; and changing the PLO leadership or finding an alternative to it altogether. Barghouthi fears such developments would set the stage for a Camp David-like solution to the Palestinian question.

The deposed mayor of Nablus, **Bassam Shaka'a**, said the dismantling of the socialist camp and the problems resulting with the Soviet Union have created a feeling in the West that the international arena is a fair game for all manner of imperialist ambitions. Shaka'a thinks this reflects negatively on the international scene and on the nations of the developing world, particularly since international developments and the rapid move toward détente did not coincide

with internal or external economic developments, meaning their people are no closer to fulfilling their aspirations than they were before. This paralyzed the Soviet Union, rendering it almost useless, and certainly powerless to stop the American and Western vision of the new order from taking shape. The West's vision, he said, is clearly to hegemonize the world and solve international and regional problems in a way that suits their interests and consolidates their control.

**Dr. Haidar Abdel Shafti**, head of the Red Crescent in the Gaza Strip, notes that American intervention in the so-called Gulf crisis, although based on Security Council resolutions, has proven that liberating Kuwait was not their essential goal, but was rather intended as a means to destroy Iraq as a regional power and hegemonize the region. Abdel Sharif said that when one studies American tactics, it no longer appears strange that the United States, while committing this aggression despite the condemnation of the world, talks about a new world order based on international legitimacy, human rights, and the U.N. Charter. The U.S. is trying to placate the region, he said, adding that the Palestinians will have to wait and see how the United States will work toward this alleged goal. He said he didn't expect much other than a tightening of the American grip on the region.

**Dr. Abdel Sattar Qassim**, of an-Najah University in Nablus, told *Al-Fajr* that he believes the U.S. idea of a new world order is not based on an objective conception of international détente, but rather on what the United States deems to be international détente. He said he believed the United States had a specific point of view on how the world should be ordered, and that it saw itself as hegemonizing power over the world and thus implementing any arrangements it thinks fit. Qassim said that such arrangements would not take into account the norms of peace and justice, but would stem from American interests in the first place and the interests of its allies in the Western world in the second place. Israel and its interests will fit into the Western slot, he said.

Qassim said that Iraq was an example of how America will confront a challenge. It unleashed its military might, he said, so that all nations could see that the price of insurrection was very costly. This means that the world will face a new order of dictatorship and tyranny.

Qassim said he saw really two choices for the Palestinian movement regarding the new world order. They could accept it and try to function from within it, or reject it and act on a national level to wrest the Arab nation out from under American control. Qassim said the first choice would almost certainly mean autonomy, maybe under the slogan of a state of Palestine, although its security and fate would be in the hands of Israel, meaning only a disguised occupation. Qassim said the other choice would mean a lot of hard work but would eventually result in a real solution to the Palestinian question, and would be preferable to surrendering to the new world order.

**Dr. Mahmoud al-Zahhar**, from Gaza, doesn't see any-

thing "new" in this world order. The world has witnessed similar orders several times in history and has suffered much from them. He sees this order as merely another attempt at Western hegemony, like the Crusades. Zahhar describes the main characteristics of this order:

1) The subjugation of the Eastern bloc or what is left of it, namely the Soviet Union, to America, following an era of corruption and decay.

2) The United Nations no longer functions as the seat of justice for the poor. The ignored resolutions of the Security Council and the veto are flagrant examples of injustice. The stand of this institution on the problems of oppressed nations like the Palestinian nation, and its position toward the Gulf crisis, are clear indicators that should be taken into account when the role of this institution is discussed.

3) The role of the major powers is prominent. Colonialism is disguised as help for the oppressed, and the colonial lackeys are normally local. The positions of some Arab countries, their media, and the statements of their leaders, as well as those of some Islamic countries, are very clear examples.

Dr. Zahhar said the question remains how long the Arab nation will continue to be ruled by idiots and agents of the cheapest variety.

**Fayez al-Qawasmeh**, a Hebron businessman, said that the new world order amounts to nothing more than the ascension of one country to the throne of the world, and the hegemony of the strong over the weak. Recent statements by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that his country would not impose a solution to the Palestinian question but would only help to find a solution, reflect the duality of the U.S. position. Qawasmeh said the Palestinian people and the PLO as their leadership should insist on the implementation of the U.N. resolutions.

Writer and journalist **Ribhi al-Shuwaiki** said the United States has kept most of its ideas about this new world order secret. "We didn't read about it in the papers or see it in the official statements. But we felt it," said Shuwaiki, "through more than 1,000 air sorties daily, and the more than half a million soldiers equipped with the most advanced weaponry against Iraq." Shuwaiki said he didn't think such a world order stemming from the barrel of a gun would mean international détente.

**Jiryis Khoury**, former chairman of the Bar Association in the West Bank, said the United States never presented a concept of any new order. The gist of the matter, he said, is that statements were made by some U.S. leaders in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis about what they called a "new world order." He says these are not concrete ideas, but rather visions of an international political situation lucrative for them and an embodiment of their hegemony over the world today. He said it is difficult to indicate the place the Palestinian question will take in such an imagined world order, not because the Palestinian question is minor, but because the voiced order is not yet clear.