

the facts

ABOUT THE PALESTINE PROBLEM

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WOMEN'S RESISTANCE

January - March 1969



PORTRAITS FROM THE RESISTANCE

Abla Taha

Pregnant in her third month when arrested on 25 July 1968. Accused of belonging to the Popular Front and of carrying explosives. She was kept in prison for six months. Her lawyer Felicia Langer, an Israeli, admitted that Abla had been subjected to torture in prison. Two of Abla's companions, Latifa Howari and Sarah Joudeh, were also jailed and subjected to torture with her.



Fatmah Bernaoui

Was arrested in Jerusalem on 19 October 1967, and accused of belonging to el-Fatah organization. Her father, mother and sisters were also arrested. She was later sentenced to life imprisonment.



Amina Dahbour

Born in Kfar Alna in the Gaza Strip in 1945. Taught in an UNRWA school until June 1967. Was in Gaza when it was occupied by the Israelis the first time in 1956. Left Gaza after the second occupation and joined the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Took part in the attack against an El Al plane in Zurich, Switzerland in February 1969. Is now in a Swiss jail.



Shadia Abu-Ghazali

Born in Nablus in 1947. Studied at Ain-Shams University in Cairo. Joined the Palestine Students' and Women's Union in her University years. Returned to Nablus after the June War and joined el-Fatah. Died as a martyr on 21 October 1968, aged twenty-one.



Mariam Shkhashir

19 years old, from Nablus. Was arrested and accused of planting explosives in the Hebrew University incident in which many people were injured. She is still awaiting trial.





The Women of Palestine Fight the Occupation

NABLUS Four hundred girls from two of the town's schools marched on Sunday, shouting, « We are el-Fatah ». They were demanding the return of two of their teachers who had been expelled by the Israeli authorities.

(7 January 1969, Le Monde)

TULKARM On 17 January, a military tribunal sentenced an 18-year-old girl to a six-weeks prison sentence for « having organised a demonstration of young girls ».

(18 January 1969, L'Orient, AFP)

RAFAH On Monday morning, one Arab woman was killed and nine other girls and young women injured by Israeli soldiers at Rafah in the Gaza Strip. An Israeli army spokesman stated that the women had been shot as they were attempting to break through a barbed-wire enclosure where men suspects were being held.

(22 January 1969, Le Monde)

JERUSALEM A group of Moslem and Christian Arab women started a hunger strike in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. They stated that they were protesting against the cruelties of the Israeli occupation, and demanded that Israel retreat from Arab territory.

(27 January 1969, Le Monde)

JERUSALEM The number of women on strike in the church has grown to 100. During the day four of the women were arrested and forcibly taken from the church by Israeli soldiers. Two of them were later released, but Mrs. Amine Hussein and her daughter, from Jerusalem, remained in prison. Later the women on strike stated that armed soldiers had entered the church, molesting women who blocked their way and arrested the four women. Mrs. Hussein's daughter had taken refuge on the steps of the Greek Orthodox altar; she was dragged from the altar by the soldiers and was crying with pain when they took her away.

The Mufti of Jerusalem and the heads of the three religious communities who share the Church of the Holy Sepulchre all protested about « the way the Israeli soldiers had behaved ».

(28 January 1969, L'Orient, All Agencies)

JERUSALEM Support for the strikers compelled the Israeli authorities to close the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, for the first time in history. The women stated that they would leave the church only if the Israeli authorities released Mrs. Hussein and her daughter. The Israelis agreed to do so and the strike ended.

(29 January 1969, L'Orient, All Agencies)

- GAZA** Three Arab girls aged between 17-23 appeared before a military tribunal. They were accused of passing military information to Arab States and of sheltering members of the Resistance.
(31 January 1969, Le Monde)
- GAZA** A high-ranking military source said that 93 Arab School girls were treated in hospital after Israeli troops charged with night sticks to break up three hours of rioting by 4,000 Arab school girls, between the ages of 11 and 18. He said that 43 girls were kept at the hospital. Three suffered broken bones. The trouble had started in the morning as the military court sentenced Nahala Hafez el-Baiyed, 19, Fatma Za'ala Murtadja, 17, and Fatma Mohammed Aqamat, 24, on eight counts of subversion. Miss Baiyed was jailed for three years, and Miss Aqamat and Miss Murtadja for two years each.
(3 February 1969, Herald Tribune)
- BIREH** Seventy-five school girls staged a sit-down strike in the mosque.
(4 February 1969, L'Orient, All Agencies)
- NABLUS** A woman writer, Mrs. Fayza Abdul-Majid, appeared before a military court. She was accused of activities against the occupying authorities.
Tens of schoolgirls were treated in hospital after the Israelis fired at a demonstration in the town today.
(5 February 1969, Al-Muharrer, A.F.P.)
- JERUSALEM** Israeli troops broke into the offices of the Palestine Women's League and arrested the women who had gathered there to write a note of protest against the methods used by the Israeli authorities in Gaza.
(5 February 1969, Al-Muharrer, A.F.P.)
- AMMAN** Mrs. Abla Taha, who was deported to Amman after eight months imprisonment in Israel, declared that beatings and the use of electric shocks were routine. She said also that other women in Israeli prisons were suffering similar treatment. She stated that her husband had also been imprisoned, for no other reason than that he was her husband.
(7 February 1969, Al-Nahar, MEN)
- GAZA** Three Gaza girls were sentenced to prison terms for membership in a terrorist organisation... During demonstrations on Sunday in Gaza by more than 500 school girls against the sentences, Israeli security forces injured nearly 100 of the girls in baton charges... By mid-week the disturbances had spread to towns on the West Bank where boys and girls served as the spearhead for nationalist demonstrations. The *traditional methods* of curfew and destruction of houses are not effective in present circumstances.
(7 February 1969, Jewish Chronicle)

- GAZA** On Wednesday morning groups of Gaza school girls stoned Israeli cars.
(7 February 1969, Le Monde)
- JENIN** In Jenin there was a demonstration of school girls. Girls from a nearby refugee camp threw stones at Israeli army vehicles. Five young girls were sentenced to suspended prison sentences and were fined.
(7 February 1969, Le Monde)
- The ARAB WORLD** The Federation of Palestinian Women called for a hunger strike which was supported by women in Beirut, Amman and Baghdad.
(8 February 1969, Le Monde)
- JENIN** The Israelis opened fire on demonstrations of women and school girls. Five girls and twelve women were arrested.
(8 February 1969, L'Orient, Reuter, AFP)
- BIREH** Several hundred school girls demonstrated against the occupation. Thirteen girls were arrested.
(10 February 1969, Daily Star, AP)
- OCCUPIED TERRITORIES** For the first time since 1967, 50 young people, condemned to pay fines for having joined in demonstrations, refused to pay. Consequently they and their parents became liable to prison sentences.
(11 February 1969, L'Orient)
- BIR ZEIT** Women and school girls occupied the mosque for two days. The town was completely isolated by the Israeli authorities.
(11 February 1969, L'Orient)
- BIREH** About 80 women staged a sit-down strike in el-Bireh's old mosque.
(11 February 1969, Daily Star, All Agencies)
- NABLUS** In Amman today, Bassam Hajjawi, a Nablus teacher, said that student organisations in the city went on strike after Israeli troops broke into the el-Aishiya School for Girls in Nablus on 3 February. The troops entered classes, opened fire and arrested many students and teachers.
(12 February 1969, Daily Star, Reuter)
- GAZA** Girl students who were injured when Israeli forces fired on them in demonstrations last week revolted against Israeli soldiers guarding them in hospital. The girls hurled medicine bottles at the soldiers who then struck them with their rifle-butts. Five girls were seriously injured. Israeli soldiers cordoned the hospital and arrested nine girl students who were then taken to the prison hospital. Demonstrations were staged again on Tuesday in the Gaza Strip and four people were injured. Israeli forces then sealed off Gaza town and arrested young men, women and children. A 17 year old girl student was taken to hospital unconscious as a result of torture.
(14 February 1969, Daily Star, Reuter)

- GAZA** Israeli forces opened fire today on 20,000 demonstrators at Khan Younes in the Gaza Strip. 30 women were injured, some of whom later died in hospital as a result of their injuries.
(15 February 1969, L'Orient, AFP, UPI)
- ZURICH** On 16 February four Palestinian Arabs, belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, attacked an Israeli El-Al plane with 17 people aboard at Zurich airport in Switzerland. One of the members of the resistance group was a girl from Gaza, Amina Dahbour. The attack resulted in the partial destruction of the plane. Some of the passengers were also wounded. One of the members of the resistance group was fatally injured by an Israeli passenger *after* he had surrendered his arms.
(17-18 February, L'Orient, All Agencies)
- GAZA** Israeli troops with night sticks broke up a demonstration of several hundred students at an UNRWA refugee school.
(17 February 1969, Daily Star, AP)
- JERUSALEM** School children of both sexes staged a sit-down strike in the 'Ibrahimia' school for one day, in support of strikers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Two days ago the Israeli authorities arrested four school girls on the pretext of «restoring order in the town».
(21 February 1969, L'Orient, MEN, AFP)
- RAMALLAH** The Israeli authorities closed an institute for teachers and a girls' lycée because they were the centres of the strike movement in the town.
(21 February 1969, L'Orient, MEN, AFP)
- OCCUPIED TERRITORIES** The Israeli authorities made large-scale arrests in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Hebron and Nablus. Among those arrested were women teachers and girl students. They were taken to unidentified places.
(22 February 1969, Daily Star, Reuter)
- RAMALLAH** Israeli troops opened fire on a student demonstration, wounding two students. Fifteen boy and girl students were arrested.
(22 February 1969, Daily Star, Reuter)
- OCCUPIED TERRITORIES** More than 50 Palestinians, including four women, have been arrested in connection with the explosion in the Jerusalem supermarket.
(4 March 1969, Al-Anwar, UP)
- OCCUPIED TERRITORIES** The Israeli authorities arrested 80 persons — including eight women between the ages of 18 and 25 — accused of collaborating in the explosion in an Israeli supermarket in Jerusalem.
(6 March 1969, Al-Anwar)

**JERUSALEM
RAMALLAH**

Travellers from the West Bank stated that the Israeli authorities had launched a large-scale campaign of arrests in Jerusalem and Ramallah. Hundreds of young men and women had been arrested and taken to unknown destinations. Four girls of the Rimawi family and their parents had been detained but the latter were released after paying fines. Faiqa Rimawi was taken to Ramallah Hospital in a critical condition after she had been brutally tortured.

(9 March 1969, Daily Star, Reuter)

JERUSALEM

Arab women staged a sit-in strike on Sunday in St. George's Anglican Cathedral to coincide with the visit of Dr. Eugene Blake, president of the World Council of Churches. The women were protesting the arrest by the Israelis of an Arab Anglican priest, the Rev. Eilya Khoury of Ramallah.

(10 March 1969, Daily Star, AP)

JERUSALEM

15 women and 30 doctors went on a hunger strike in protest against Israeli measures toward annexing Arab Jerusalem, the expropriation of the Hay el-Sheikh public hospital, the closing of the Hospice government hospital, and the arrest of some doctors without bringing charges.

(11 March, 1969, Al Nahar, All Agencies)

RAMALLAH

At Ramallah, 150 school girls demonstrated on Monday and built barricades in the street in protest against the destruction of the house of a suspect in Jerusalem. When the girls were attacked by the Israeli soldiers, they retreated to their school. The Israelis surrounded the school and kept the girls there as prisoners until the evening. Immediately after this incident pupils of the schools of Ramallah, Bireh and a neighbouring refugee camp went on strike, and staged a demonstration.

(12 March, 1969, L'Orient, AFP)

GAZA

An Israeli military court in Gaza fined a 15-year-old school girl 1,000 pounds (\$285) for leading a demonstration against the Israelis, shouting, « Nasser, Nasser ». The court said that her father must pay the fine or go to jail for eight months. Nima Nabeeh Mahin's plea to jail her and not her father was ignored.

(13 March 1969, Daily Star, AP)

TULKARM

Girl students tried to stage a demonstration but Israeli police prevented them from leaving the school courtyard where they had assembled.

(13 March 1969, Daily Star, Reuter)

NABLUS

A girl from Nablus, Mariam Shakhashir, is alleged to have planted a bomb which injured 29 people in Jerusalem's Hebrew University. Earlier the police had arrested over 100 suspects in East Jerusalem, including two girls, said to have planted the bomb in a West Jerusalem supermarket on February 21. The girls are also said to be responsible for an explosive charge discovered in the British Consulate General in East Jerusalem.

(16 March 1969, Daily Star, DPA)

- ALGIERS** The President of Algeria, Houari Boumedienne, received a delegation of women, members of the Resistance Organization, Fatah. The delegation had been invited by the National Union of Algerian Women. They told President Boumedienne « about the development of the Palestine Resistance and about how Palestinian women are joining in the fight against Zionism ».
- (18 March 1969, L'Orient, AFP)*
- JERUSALEM** Police arrested Mariam Shakhashir, 22, accused of planting the bomb in the university cafeteria, and her two alleged accomplices.
- (19 March 1969, Daily Star, All Agencies)*
- NABLUS** Women in Nablus staged a sit-in strike in the al-Masri Mosque.
- (19 March 1969, al-Ahram, A.P.-A.F.P)*
- GAZA** Israeli soldiers blew up the home of a young Arab woman accused of throwing grenades at an Israeli military vehicle in a Gaza public square last Monday. The woman, Aida Issa Saad, was detained by soldiers immediately after the grenade attack. (Editor's Note : Miss Issa was later sentenced to 20 years in prison by the Israeli authorities.)
- (22 March 1969, Daily Star, Reuter)*
- NAZARETH** For the first time in 20 years of Israeli occupation, 200 women from Nazareth demonstrated today against the systematic destruction of houses by the Israeli occupation authorities.
- (23 March 1969, al-Ahram, All Agencies)*
- NABLUS** The schools of Nablus staged a mass demonstration in protest against the destruction of houses by the Israeli security forces, the arrest of Arab women, and the torture inflicted on Arab prisoners. The marchers carried the red, white, green and black flag of Palestine.
- (27 March 1969, L'Orient, AFP)*
- RAMALLAH** Three of the four houses blown up in Ramallah in March belonged to the Odeh family, whose two daughters (who were later arrested) were suspected of planting explosives in the supermarket in Jerusalem last month.
- (29 March 1969, Daily Star)*
- JENIN** Students from the Jenin Secondary School for Girls staged a pro-Palestine mass demonstration in the city. An Israeli tank force dispersed the demonstration by force and arrested seven students.
- (29 March 1969, Daily Star, All Agencies)*
- JERUSALEM** 500 women staged a demonstration today against the death in prison of Kassim Tamimi. Rumours had circulated in the town that he had died under torture. The demonstrators were sprayed with coloured water (to facilitate their identification later) and beaten with police cudgels. Four women were arrested.
- (29 March 1969, Al-Nahar, A.P., Reuter).*

A LIST OF ARAB GIRLS AND WOMEN HELD IN ISRAELI PRISONS

(From U. N. document S / 9197)

NAMES OF WOMEN DETAINED IN NABLUS IN MARCH 1969				
No.	Name	Age	Profession	Date
1.	Ghada Abdulhadi	17	Student	13/3/69
2.	Nimat Kamal	28	—	13/3/69
3.	Issam Abdulhadi	40	Housewife	14/3/69
4.	Faiha Abdulhadi	17	Student	14/3/69
5.	Amina Hijjawi	20	Teacher	14/3/69
6.	Mariam Shakhashir	19	Student	14/3/69
7.	Najwa Shakhashir	17	Student	14/3/69
8.	Sawsan Shunnar	14	Student	15/3/69
9.	Uhud Yaish	19	Student	15/3/69
10.	Siham Vazani	20	Student	15/3/69
11.	Fatima Kharouf	20	Student	15/3/69
12.	Amina Hanbli	22	Student	16/3/69
13.	Salam Kassef	20	Teacher	16/3/69
14.	Randa Nabulsi	16	Student	17/3/69
15.	Hiba Nabulsi	14	Student	18/3/69
16.	Sa'ada Nabulsi	24	Teacher	19/3/69

NAMES OF WOMEN DETAINED IN JERUSALEM 1969				
1.	Sarah Hudeh	26	Bank Employee	Aug. 68
2.	Hanan Asali	17	Student	28/2/69
3.	Izzieh Wazwaz	18	Student	28/2/69
4.	Nifouth Mafattish	24	Teacher	1/4/69
5.	Leila Qumri	22	Bank Employee	14/3/69
6.	Aida Qumri	28	Nurse	14/3/69
7.	Intisar Bseiso	18	Student	March 69
8.	Hayat Abeidou	18	Student	March 69

NAMES OF WOMAN DETAINED IN RAMALLAH

No.	Name	Age	Profession	Date
1.	Aisaeh Oudeh	23	Teacher	1/3/69*
2.	Rasmieh Y. Oudeh	22	Student	1/3/69*
3.	Leila Y. Oudeh	17	Student	1/3/69*
4.	Sajia Ali	16	Student	3/3/69

« Dangerous schoolgirls » ...



... Walk to school in Gaza, March 1969

** House demolished.*