



# BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter Issued by Birzeit University, Occupied Palestine, Feb 91, No 20

## ON CURFEW AND CLOSURE

As this issue of the **Newsletter** was about to go to press, the Gulf War erupted in the early morning hours of 17 January. Since then, the Occupied Territories and its 1.7 million population have been under a strict 24-hour curfew, except for selected areas of East Jerusalem. At this writing, the curfew has continued for almost one month: in the West Bank, it has been lifted for a few hours every several days; in Gaza, only women are allowed out of their homes during limited periods.

For the University, the curfew has meant not only the suspension of any form of educational activity, but the crippling of even the most basic administrative work needed to maintain our institution. The University community, faculty and students, of course share in all the daily difficulties faced by the entire population. Even if the curfew is lifted in the near future, the economic costs to the population and its infrastructure alone are staggering.

The imposition of this extended curfew, with its grave economic and social consequences for the population, shares one basic and important feature with the closure of Palestinian universities. In both, the Israeli military authorities have sought to curtail normal life, without any consideration for the consequences to the population, in addition to the fact that both are forms of collective punishment. Birzeit University points out that as long as Palestinian higher education, schooling, economic activity, medical services and, indeed, all aspects of communal and individual life, are in the hands of an arbitrary power that does not consider the interest of the population, the rights - and indeed the security - of the Palestinian population are not only violated, they are denied.

The lifting of sanctions against Israel by the Eu-

ropean Community, discussed on page 2, sends an unfortunate signal of international disregard of these rights. The detention of Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, also discussed on page 2, provides unfortunate confirmation that the Israeli government is using the opportunity to carry out its own agenda.

### CONTINUED CLOSURE

The three-year ban on Palestinian higher education in the Occupied Territories was extended on 30 November when the military authorities issued new military orders closing Birzeit University, Al Najah National University, Hebron University, and the Islamic University of Gaza. Bethlehem and Al Quds (Jerusalem) universities remained open, but are only able to serve less than 20% of the 14,500 currently-enrolled university students, and only a small fraction of the newly-qualified high school graduates, who have graduated over the past three years of university closure.

A press release issued by Birzeit University noted that: "The new closure orders fly in the face of official explanations about the 'gradual' reopening of Palestinian universities (announced by Israel in May 1990). The latest orders indicate that the Israeli government has made a calculated assessment that it can continue its illegal closure of universities because the attention of the international community is directed elsewhere."

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# A YEAR OF RIGHTS DENIED

At the end of an academic year, universities normally evaluate the progress of students and the development of the institution through grades and other forms of assessment. For the past ten years, Birzeit University has been forced to add another kind of yardstick: the number of detentions of students and faculty.

Following are the year-end statistics as published in the **Birzeit Human Rights Record**, a bimonthly newsletter that covers human rights issues affecting the University Community. The statistics are for the 1989-90 "academic year," which is measured from 1 October 1989 to 1 October 1990. It is a telling comment on Israel's suppression of Palestinian higher education that the academic year is only a measure, and not a reality.

## DETENTIONS IN 1989-1990\*

(Academic Year 1 October 1989-1 October 1990)

		Students	Staff
Total			
Administrative Detention	25	3	28
Released Without Charge	32	6	38
Sentenced	40	1	41
Awaiting Trial	10	1	11
Released on Bail	12	1	13
-----			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>131</b>

\* These figures include confirmed cases only. The University does not receive news of all student detentions due to prevailing circumstances.

The absolute number of arrests - **131** - down from the **214** arrests in the 1987-88 academic year, and the **175** arrests in 1988-89, partly because no new students were admitted to the University until October 1990, and thus, with students graduating or already in prison, the number of "possible detainees" was smaller. Staff (faculty and employee) detentions were down from 20 in 1988-89 to 12 in 1989-90. Of the three cases where faculty members were detained, the administrative detention of **Ghassan Andoni (Physics)** and the detention without charge of **Dr. Riyad Al Malki (Engineering)** were clearly connected with their role as community spokespersons.

In the 1989-90 academic year, **about 10% of the male student body was detained**, using the current student enrollment of 1600 (Enrollment before closure was 2650, but the University has not been in contact with roughly 1000 of these students). There were two females among the detainees. The **number of administrative detainees** declined from 25% of total arrests in 1988-89, but is **still substantial at 20% of total arrests**. On the other hand, the number of detainees sentenced in military court increased by about 5%, to 30% of all arrests.

One constant has not changed in the ten years the University has been monitoring detentions: each year, **the majority of staff and student detainees are not charged in court**. Their detention ends either in release without charge, their case is dropped or they receive administrative detention, which is imprisonment without trial. The University has long argued that detention is often used as a means of pressure and intimidation, rather than directed at the commission of specific offenses. In other words, **arbitrary arrest** is the major trend in University detentions.

## HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

The above report is derived from material published in the October/November 1990 issue of the **Birzeit Human Rights Record**, a new bimonthly report which aims to provide human rights activists, organizations and interested individuals timely information about current cases where the rights of University staff and students are violated. In addition to the year-end report, the October/November 1990 issue (No. 5) includes information on the current Israeli "green card" campaign and how it affects the University community, a report on an army attack on Birzeit students and new administrative detainees. If you would like to receive the Record, please write to the **Human Rights Action Project**, Public Relations Office, Birzeit University, POB 14, Birzeit, West Bank, via Israel.

## V I E W P O I N T: DEANS DISCUSS DILEMMAS

The Newsletter asked the Dean of Science, Dr. Simon Kuttab, and the Dean of Commerce and Economics, Dr. Samir Hazboun, to comment on the problems they face today and the problems they foresee when the University re-opens. The Dean of Arts, Dr. Najl Abdul Jabbar, and the Dean of Engineering, Dr. Abdulrahman Hamad, will be interviewed in the next issue.

**Dr. Simon Kuttab, Dean of Science:** "I suppose one could say it's 'exciting' to be a Dean under these very difficult conditions. Certainly, each day brings a wide variety of solvable and unsolvable problems. I deal with matters that, in normal circumstances, would never reach the Dean. Every student, in a way, has exceptional circumstances - and of course, we are trying to uphold University regulations in this completely abnormal atmosphere.

"We need to re-open; I can't emphasize this too strongly. Of course, it will take us at least one year to get back to where we were in 1987 - after all, we are not talking about three years of positive development! Our faculty will be under a great deal of pressure as they strive to upgrade standards and handle all the problems of students' coursework during this irregular period. Their own research will suffer for years to come. There were developments in every scientist's field over the past three years that he or she was unable to monitor. All the projects underway in 1987 will need serious re-formulation.

"Even in 1987, we were facing some difficulty in accomodating the larger number of new students accepted that year, about 700. Now, we have three years of graduated high school seniors and much less opporutnity for students to study in Jordan or other Arab countries.

"This translates into a huge demand for facilities, as well as a great pressure on the faculty. Our laboratories, for example, are in need of repair and expansion. If we re-open, I believe it is our national responsibility to accept as many qualified students as possible, even at the expense of reducing the loads of currently-enrolled students.

"The acceptance of new students is a priority. In general, all the universities need to re-think their academic programs in order to direct them more carefully towards the community and its needs. Our current curriculum often prepares students for graduate education, rather than skills needed now in our community. In the sciences, we need to direct our attention towards technical applications, and perhaps lessen our theoretical coverage."

**Dr. Samir Hazboun, Dean of Commerce and Economics:** "During the last three years, we have learned, sometimes very skillfully, to adapt to an unnatural situation, but we are certainly not satisfied. We need to get back to campus, and I believe there we will be able to solve the administrative and academic problems that are the legacy of the past three years -- although it may take us at least a year to function normally.

"Take the problem of the academic schedule. Our program of offering courses in the Faculty of Commerce and Economics has been badly skewed over the period of closure. We have been operating according to the law of supply and demand -- several students need a course to graduate so we offer it. Market demands are not the best way to administer a university. And of course when we return to the University, we will have a disproportionate number of freshmen and sophomores.

"We in the Faculty of Commerce and Economics have been especially frustrated because we believe we could be making a more significant contribution to the Palestinian community if the University was open and functioning. We need to work with local industrialists, unions and other bodies to improve the economic picture and develop practical plans to meet the growing problems of unemployment and stagnation. These needs are been particularly critical in the last three years - just when we have lost all our facilities for research and even for meeting. For example we want to conduct workshops for industrialists. On campus, it would be simple. Without our facilities, we wrack our brains - we can't even find space to meet.

"When we return to campus, I think our priority should be developing our relations with the community through using our academic skills to tackle the many problems our society faces. Of course, we also do this by producing qualified students. I am please when I see our graduates in positions of responsibility in local firms - but, as I said before, we are not satisfied.!

### **Nusseibeh** (continued from page 2)

the fact that Dr. Nusseibeh has been placed under administrative detention, rather than charged, also indicates the authorities have no specific evidence against him. Dr. Nusseibeh's wife, Lucy, also points out that the Nusseibeh family has been under curfew in the East Jerusalem suburb of Bethany since the outbreak of the Gulf War."

Dr. Nusseibeh, in a public statement given after his arrest, "I am and have always been clearly and unequivocally opposed to all forms of violence and in favour of a peaceful solution." International protest over Dr. Nusseibeh's arrest was immediate and vigorous, including a protest by the French Government and many non-governmental organizations. In a 1 February statement, Amnesty International called for "the immediate and unconditional release of Dr. Nusseibeh unless the authorities are ready to produce the evidence necessary for him to exercise the right to challenge his detention."

This evidence was never produced. In a 3 February hearing in Jerusalem, Dr. Nusseibeh's period of administrative detention was reduced to three months. He is currently being held in Ramle Prison. Birzeit University urges continued protest at his unjust detention, which the University affirms "has been used as a political weapon to malign both Dr. Nusseibeh and the Palestinian academic community, and to silence Palestinian voices

## UNIVERSITY GROWS TREES

The rocky hills around the University's new campus are slated to be transformed into an Arboretum, where botanists can conduct research and students can learn about their natural environment and how to protect it.

A formal agreement signed in October 1990 between Birzeit University and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation has launched the first stage of a forestation project at the University, whose goals are to establish a native forest, using the indigenous plants of Palestine, as well as to revive a number of native plants, particularly fruit trees, which are disappearing from the landscape due to lack of cultivation.

Botanist Dr. Sumaya Farhat-Naser (Biology and Biochemistry), notes that forestation has a number of important consequences, including "protecting plants that are endangered, preventing soil erosion, preserving the water balance and protecting the environment." Trees which once flourished in the landscape around Birzeit that are now dwindling in number and need preservation include walnut, fig and pomegranate trees.

Farhat-Naser is particularly enthusiastic about the potential of the Arboretum as a teaching environment. Birzeit students will also be doing practical voluntary work to develop the Arboretum as part of the University's Community Work Program. Technical supervision of the project is the responsibility of the Agricultural Relief Committees in the West Bank.

The Arboretum is one of several coordinated pilot projects, which aim to develop reforestation projects in West Bank locales with varying geographical features. "The Arboretum Project," says Farhat-Naser, "will be an important contribution to both research and preservation of our environment - and once more demonstrates that the University is alive despite the closure!"



# SOLIDARITY

\* Over 200 faculty members and 800 students at **Harvard University** and the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** signed a petition released in May 1990 urging the immediate re-opening of Palestinian universities, as well as "to release all faculty and students held without charge or trial" and "to desist from the closing of schools in the future." Among the prominent signatories to the petition from Harvard were John Kenneth Galbraith, Stanley Hoffman, Everett Mendelsohn, Albert Sacks and Nobel Laureates Dudley Herschbach and George Wald. Among those from MIT were Morris Halle, Thomas S. Kuhn and Nobel Laureate Salvador Luria.

\* A 15-17 June 1990 conference sponsored by the **Palestinian Academic Freedom Network**, held in Washington, D.C., featured Birzeit academics Dr. Azmi Bishara and Dr. Simon Kuttab, and was attended by 500 people. Representative Howard Nielson (D-Utah), the sponsor of Congressional Resolution 315, urging the re-opening of Palestinian universities, also addressed the conference which culminated a month of lobbying in the U.S. Congress for the resolution. Dr. Kuttab also spoke at a press conference, along with Dr. Phillipa Strum, a political scientist from Brooklyn College, and a representative of Al Najah National University.

\* 170 faculty members at the **University of Idaho**, including President Elisabeth Zinser, signed a resolution urging Israel to re-open universities in the West Bank and Gaza. The resolution affirms that "The closure of academic institutions anywhere in the world is an event to be deplored by people everywhere, but especially by those who are themselves committed in their daily lives to the advancement of education." In an editorial comment, a local newspaper, the **Idaho-nian**, praised Zinser for adding her name to the petition.

\* In a letter to the Israeli Minister of Defense on 21 August 1990, the **Swedish National Union of Students** condemned the closure of Birzeit University and urged "the authorities to take the opportunity to re-open the University when the

present military order expires on 1 September 1990."

\* In September 1990, **over 650 Canadian academics** petitioned Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney "to intervene personally with the Israeli government on behalf of the professors and students of the Palestinian universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," and to express Canada's desire to see "the immediate and unconditional re-opening" of the universities, as well as "the immediate release of the hundreds of Palestinian students and professors currently under administrative detention." In a 24 September ad in the **Toronto Globe and Mail**, the **Canadian Coalition for Palestinian Human Rights** asked for more voices to be added to "this appeal for the basic human right to education," and on 25 September, the Canadian Federation of Students, representing 400,000 post-secondary students, also wrote the Prime Minister to stress that "education is a right - not a privilege. It is vital that this right be observed throughout the international community."

\* The **Norwegian University Council** passed a unanimous resolution condemning the "long-lasting closing" of Palestinian universities, pointing out that "During all history, only the most autocratic regimes have kept universities closed for such long periods." The Norwegian Student Union had asked the Council to discuss the closures and provided it with information, as did the Norwegian Students and Teachers Assistance Fund (SAIH).

\* Over 100 professors at **Stanford University** asked their Congressional representative, Tom Campell, to support Congressional Resolution 315, urging the re-opening of Palestinian universities. The letter was circulated by Hubert Marshall, professor emeritus of political science, who said "Access to education is a basic human right. Members of the academic profession have a responsibility to help restore the right when it is deliberately denied to any group."

# BIRZEIT BOOKFAIR

June 1990 was a special month for book lovers in the Occupied Territories, who have long been deprived of the pleasures of browsing among a rich selection of books. The Palestinian Bookfair, organized by Birzeit University and held 24-25 June in Jerusalem, aimed to provide a comprehensive view of local publishing and authorship in the 1980s. Over thirty local institutions, including universities, research centers and publishers, as well as a number of individual authors, exhibited their publications during the Bookfair, which attracted a record crowd to the large hall in Jerusalem's National Palace Hotel.

Birzeit University organized the Bookfair in response to the current situation in the Occupied Territories in which books, even when written and published in the Occupied Territories, are not generally available to the public due to the closure of university libraries and restrictions on distribution. In the past two years, in addition, many academics have published books abroad which are also not available locally. The same period has seen numerous studies produced by local researchers, academic institutions and research centers, a number of which are newly-established, which had only reached a very limited readership.

Many of these books and studies focus on critical issues in Palestinian society, making it even more imperative that students, faculty and the general public have the opportunity to read and discuss them. The closure of all university libraries, and the restrictions on book acquisitions for local book dealers, have created a situation where books are virtually absent from public view.

At the Birzeit University table, two new major books on the Intifada were exhibited that contained a number of contributions by Birzeit authors. Both **Intifada: Palestine at the Crossroads**, edited by Roger Heacock and Jamal Nassar and published by Praeger Press, and **Intifada**, edited by Joel Beinin and Zachary Lockman and published by South End Press, were previously not available in the Occupied Territories. Other new books by Birzeit authors were **The Ru-**

**ral Middle East**, published by Zed Press and Birzeit University and edited by Kathy and Pandelis Glavanis, **Speak Bird, Speak Again**, published by the University of California Press and written by Sharif Kanaana and Ibrahim Muhawwi and **The Political Elite in the West Bank and Gaza**, published by Dar al Talia and written by Ali Jarbawi.

The Bookfair was accompanied by a series of roundtables which focused on the problems and prospects of local publishing and research. Questions such as standards of publishing and research, problems of fieldwork and documentation during the Uprising, researching women, and theoretical approaches to researching the Uprising, were presented and discussed by over twenty academics and experts. A summary of these discussions in Arabic appears in the current issue of **Afaq Filistinliyya**.

The Bookfair was decorated with flags bearing the slogans "Palestinian Bookfair - For the Right to Education" and "Palestinian Universities Live On," slogans which reflect that the struggle for the right to education - and the right to read - are far from over.

## **EC PROTEST** *(continued from page 2)*

Dr. Baramki added: "The decision seems to the Council to undermine the European Community's stated position on the pre-requisites of a just peace. The public position of the member states of the EC includes commitments to Israeli security and Palestinian rights. We feel this decision serves neither commitment, but rather makes the unfortunate equation that an erosion of Palestinian rights constitutes a gesture of support for the state and people of Israel."

The letter went on to point out that "the decision lays the European Community open to the charge of double standards in the respect and enforcement of international law. Surely, there has never been a more appropriate time for the Community to assert clearly its stand against any state's violation of the rights of populations under its control, particularly in the context of the military occupation of one people by another."

## publications

**Saleh Abdul Jawad** (History/Political Science) "A Study in the Leadership of the Fateh Movement," *Qa-daya*, Jerusalem, August 1990 (in Arabic).

**Ahmed Baker** (Education and Psychology), "The Psychological Impact of the Intifada on Palestinian Children Living in the Occupied West Bank and Gaza," *The American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 60, 1990, pp. 492-502.

**Azmi Bishara** (Cultural Studies/Philosophy), "Dilemma of State and Religion in Israel," *Dirasaat Filistiniyya*, Summer 1990, Nicosia (in Arabic). A version of this article in Hebrew and English was published in *Theory and Criticism*, December 1990, Jerusalem.

-----, "A New Perspective on the Arab Population in Israel," *State and System*, Hebrew University, Summer 1990 (in Hebrew).

**Ali Jarbawi** (Political Science), "The Geography of the Intifada" (interview), *Middle East Report*. Washington, D.C., May-August 1990.

**H.R. Jaqaman** (Physics), Gabor Pall and D. H. E. Gross, "Percolation vs. Microcanonical Fragmentation - Comparison of Fragment Size Distributions: Where is the Liquid-Gas Transition in Nuclei?," *Nuclear Physics A*, Vol. 514, 1990, pp. 327-338.

**Mahmoud Miari** (Sociology), "Readiness for Interethnic Contact Among Palestinians in Israel," *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, Spring/Summer 1990.

**Hani Nigim** (Mechanical Engineering), and D.J. Cockrell, "Techniques for Measurement of Reynolds Shear Stress in Separated Flow," *Journal of Fluid Control; Including Fluidics Quarterly*, Vol. 19, No. 4, pp 32-46.

-----, and A Abu-Shamalla, "Design and Development of a Low Wind-Speed Powered System in the Gaza Strip," **Energy and the Environment**, ed. Sayigh, Pergamon, Oxford 1990.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Measurements and Modelling of Turbulent Boundary Layers Down Stream Obstacles," **Engineering Turbulence Modelling and Measurements**, Eds. Rodi and Ganic, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1990.

**Salim Tamari** (Sociology), "The Uprising's Dilemma: Limited Rebellion and Civil Society," *Middle East Report*, Washington, D.C., May-August 1990.

-----, "Eyeless in Judea: Israel's Strategy of Collaborators and Forgeries," *Middle East Report*, Washington, D.C., May-August 1990.

**Mohsin Yusef**, "Palestinians in Israel and the Intifada," PASSIA, Jerusalem, 1990 (in Arabic).

**Said Zedani** (Cultural Studies/Philosophy), "Democratic Citizenship and the Arabs in Israel," *Qa-daya*, Jerusalem, August 1990 (in Arabic).

## Working Papers

Working Papers is a new series of occasional research papers published by **Afaq Filistiniyya**, the University's research journal. The first three papers in the series are now available:

Working Paper No. 1: "Oral History," **Adel Yahya** (History), in Arabic.

Working Paper No. 2: "Industrialization in the Occupied Territories: Perceptions of Palestinian Entrepreneurs." **Samir Hazboun** (Economics) and **Elias Tuma**, in English.

Working Paper No. 3: "An Unsettling Affair: Housing Conditions, Tenancy Regulations and the Coming of the Messiah in the Old City of Jerusalem," **Graham McNeill** (Arab Thought Forum), in English.

## New From Community Health

The University's Community Health Unit has produced a series of thirteen occasional papers to date on health-related subjects, including sanitation, women's health, occupational health, and medical demography. A major survey of "Disability in the Occupied Territories," published in the summer of 1990, examines existing facilities in the Occupied Territories for the disabled, as well as surveying the disabled population, which now includes the wounded of the Uprising. An upcoming survey will focus on geriatrics. Publications can be obtained by writing to the Unit at the University's address. The Unit's Resource Center on primary health care is also open to researchers and includes unpublished documents on health in the Occupied Territories, as well as periodicals and audio-visual materials. Community Health staffer Hala Salem has recently completed a three-month training course in Chile and Phillipines on the organization of resource centers, sponsored by ISIS, a United Nations agency for women.



## **faculty fiction : Ahmed Harb**

A new novel by English Department faculty member, Dr. Ahmed Harb, **Janeb Al Akhar Li Ard Al Ma'ad** (The Other Side of the Promised Land) explores, through multiple narrators, topics which range from Palestinian history and the intifada to the act of writing of a novel. The novel, which was published by Dar Al Aswar this summer, has already generated considerable response in the Occupied Territories. The University's Department of Arabic held an October seminar to discuss the new narrative techniques employed in the novel, while other critics and readers have reacted - both positively and negatively - to the political themes of the the novel.

**Janeb** is Dr. Harb's third novel, and the second in a trilogy. The first novel in the trilogy, **Ismail**, Dr. Harb notes, had as its setting "Palestinian conditions before the intifada." The main character is a political activist with a firm belief in armed struggle. However, both his struggle and those of his pacifist opponents end in failure and the novel culminates with Ismail and his friend Abu Keiss in Amman.

In **Janeb**, Dr. Harb explains, Ismail chooses "the easy option" and joins a Palestinian political office in Amman, while Abu Keiss continues his struggle to understand himself and his history. His story weaves backward to World War II, where he was inducted into the British army, captured by the Germans, released in a deal with the Palestinian Mufti, Haj Amin Al Hussein, captured again by the Yugoslavs and put on a forced march from Zaghreb to Moscow, where he and three other Arab prisoners manage to escape to Egypt and finally back to Palestine, where Abu Keiss joins the fighter Abdul Kader Al Hussein. "I know how Abdul Kader was killed," Abu Keiss declares, although as the story unfolds he comes to question his version. The story of Abu Keiss and the Mufti, Dr. Harb notes, is about "lost Palestinians and a lost leadership in exile, incapable of taking the right decisions."

A critical scrutiny of leadership and institutions continues throughout the novel, as other narrators, including Majid, an underground leader, and Arnona/Iman, a Jew married to a Palestinian, tell their stories. Iman's husband, Hadi, even writes an ironic version of the story of Ruth

in the Old Testament. Dr. Harb notes that **Janeb** (Other) is not simply a reference to geography or politics, but also to the "relationship between the one and the other, the ego and the alter ego," which echoes throughout the book.

Harb notes that much of the fiction currently being written in the Occupied Territories relies on "the direct statement." and is consequently often formally weak and thematically uncomplex. He thinks the University should develop ways to encourage students as writers, either through formal classes or through a student literary journal and related activities. Dr. Harb wrote most of **Janeb** when he spent 1988-89 as a Fulbright Scholar at the International Writer's Workshop in the University of Iowa.

## **Afaq Filistiniyya**

Issue No. 5 of **The Birzeit University Research Review**, under the new name of **Afaq Filistiniyya**, was published in the summer of 1990 after a lapse of three years. Editor Salim Tamari explains in his preface that "These three years also span the age of the Palestinian Uprising whose themes dominate the essays of this issue of **Afaq**." The new name was accompanied by changes in format and focus. The journal will no longer be bilingual, although at least one major essay will continue to appear in English each issue. The disciplinary themes of the first four issues has been replaced with a interdisciplinary approach. Featured in this issue are:

**Said Zedani**, "Democracy and its Opponents in the Arab World." **Lisa Taraki**, "Before the Flood: The Development of Political Consciousness Among the Palestinians, 1967-1987"; **Mahmoud Mi'ari**, "Palestinians in Israel: Identity and Co-existence.;" **Saleh Abdul Jawwad**, "Primary Sources for the Intifada: Problems for the Researcher;" **Joost Hilterman**, "The Working Class in the Intifada: A Class Absence?" **Annalies Moors**, "Rural Women in the West Bank", **Albert Glock**, "Excavating Palestine Today (Part II)." All the essays are in Arabic except for the contribution of Albert Glock.

To subscribe to **Afaq** from abroad, please send \$20 for two issues each year to **Afaq Filistiniyya** at the University's address.

## Birzeit Abroad

\* Three Birzeit faculty members participated in a October 1990 conference sponsored by the Naim Foundation, in cooperation with Georgetown University, and held in Washington, D.C. Dr. **Shafiq Masalha** (Student Affairs) presented a paper on "The Psychological State of Palestinian Children as Reflected in Their Dreams; Dr. **Elia Awwad** (Student Affairs) delivered a paper on "Psycho-social Rehabilitation of Injured Palestinian Adolescents: Group Work Experiences," and Dr. **Ahmed Baker** (Education and Psychology) was a conference moderator.

\* Dr. **Hanna Nasir**, President of Birzeit University, represented the University at the Ninth General Meeting of the International Association of Universities, held in Helsinki, Finland in August 1990. Dr. Nasir circulated a briefing paper on "The Mission of the University Under Siege: The Case of Palestinian Universities."

\* Dr. **Adel Mena'** (History) was a guest speaker at an 11 May 1990 conference at the University of Leyden in Holland on "Dutch Historians on the Middle East and Islam." Dr. Mena' also delivered a lecture at Amsterdam University on "The Intifada and Popular Rebellions in the Modern History of Palestine." His visit to Holland was part of the cooperation agreement between Birzeit and Amsterdam universities.

\* During a visit to the U.S. in November 1990, Dr. **Gabi Baramki** (Vice-President) attended annual meeting of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges in Kansas City. He also visited Friends of Birzeit University in Michigan, a group currently active on behalf of the Periodical Endowment Project of the University's Abdelhannim Library. At Princeton University, Dr. Baramki met with Dr. Carl Brown and other faculty at the Center for Near-east Studies to discuss cooperation between the Center and Birzeit University. In Washington, D.C., Dr. Baramki met with members of the U.S. Congress and Congressional aides to brief them on the situation of Palestinian universities.

\* During a visit to the Soviet Union in September 1990, Dr. **Sumaya Farhat-Naser** (Biology and Biochemistry) met with academics at the University

of Moscow, as well as officials at the Soviet Foreign Ministry and a number of citizens' groups. The visit was sponsored by the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. Dr. Farhat-Naser spent the summer of 1990 on a study visit to the Institute of Botany at the Technical University of Berlin, under a grant from DAAD, the German academic exchange foundation. In May 1990, she delivered two lectures on the situation of Palestinians under occupation, one in Berlin on the occasion of Catholic Day 1990, and the other at the University of Munster.

\* **Eileen Kuttab** (Sociology) presented a paper on "The Role of Women in the Intifada" at the plenary session of the Fourth International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women's Studies, held at Hunter College in New York in June 1990.

\* At the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society, held in Oakland, California in October 1990, Dr. **Abdel Latif Barghouti** (Arabic) presented a paper on "The Intifada's Influence on Palestinian Folklore," while Dr. **Ahmed Baker** (Education and Psychology) discussed a "Psychological Interpretation of Palestinian Proverbs" and Dr. **Sharif Kanaana** (Sociology and Anthropology) addressed the topic of "Folklore and National Identity."

\* During a study visit to the University of Montpellier in France, **Walid Sharif** (Archaeology) delivered a May 1990 slide lecture on "Domestic Methods for Baking Bread in Palestine." Mr. Sharif participated in several excavations in the summer of 1990, and visited the Institute of Human Paleontology in Paris in September.

\* **Asmahan Wadi**, a staff member in the University's Office of Literacy and Adult Education attended an international conference on adult education, held in Hamburg, Germany from 5-17 November 1990. She presented a paper on informal education, which discussed the literacy program in the Occupied Territories.

\* **Mark Taylor** (Public Relations/Human Rights Action Project) toured Norwegian universities in October 1990 to discuss violations of the human rights of Palestinian students and faculty, as well as the closure of Palestinian universities. His tour was sponsored by the Norwegian Student Union and the Student and Academic Assis-

# International Summer Program 1991

## BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL SUMMER PROGRAM

Birzeit University's Seventh International Summer Program (ISP) offers students from abroad a unique opportunity to learn about the language and people of the area in an environment where students can practice Arabic with Birzeit students, learn about a critical area of the world first-hand, and choose from a wide variety of historical and contemporary sites of interest for field trips and informal visits.

The International Summer Program's six-week session will be held **July 15-August 25, 1991**. If the University's campuses are still closed by military order, classes and housing will be in Ramallah.

### COURSE OFFERINGS

*Intensive Arabic for Beginners*, 16 hours/week, 6 credits.

**Arabic 132:** *Arabic for Non-Native Speakers*, Intermediate. 8 hours/week, 2 credits.

**Sociology 234:** *Palestinian Society*, 8 hours/week, 3 credits.

**Political Science 333:** *The Palestinian Problem*, 8 hours/week, 3 credits.

**Cultural Studies 322:** *Palestine in the Context of the Arab World*, 6 hours/week, 2 credits.

### APPLICATION AND FEES

Application Deadline: 21 June 1991

Application Fee: \$25

Tuition: \$300 for Intensive Arabic Course  
\$200 for all other courses

Housing: \$200 for six weeks.

For course descriptions and application forms, please write to:

International Summer Program  
Office of the Registrar  
Birzeit University, Birzeit, West Bank  
Via Israel

### CLOSURE (continued from page 1)

At a press conference in Jerusalem on 26 November, the Council for Higher Education, representing all Palestinian universities, called on the international community for "prompt and effective action to re-open **all** Palestinian universities," and a statement from the "Student Councils in the State of Palestine" asked the U.N. Security Council to "dispatch international forces for the protection of our people and our national institutions."

Meanwhile, Birzeit University began another off-campus teaching session without the vital academic resources - particularly the library and laboratories - that constitute a university education. 1600 students are studying in the current session, including, for the first time since the closure, almost 500 new students who had completed an earlier orientation session. These students are trying to pursue their university education in "an academic version of sensory deprivation," the University's press release commented, adding that this situation "was made even more bitter when Israeli spokespersons cynically announce that 'teaching is going on,'" as though closing the universities has no impact on higher education."

International solidarity to re-open Palestinian universities has continued, as the Solidarity section of this **Newsletter** confirms. But more decisive action is needed, as the ramifications of university closure are extremely grave. As Dr. Baramki, Vice-President of Birzeit University, wrote in a 18 December 1990 article in the **Christian Science Monitor**, "The educated leadership the Palestinian community needs is also the leadership required for a peaceful and just solution to the bitter conflict in the Middle East. That the Israeli government has undermined the education of the new generation belies its interest in peace."