

Student Persecution under military rule

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students from various areas were secondary to obtaining access to resources. Before the campus was closed a few books were salvaged and various institutions co-operated with the duplication of these materials. The process was costly, however, and often impossible. Furthermore, many public libraries were closed, since the mayors were removed from office in spring, making resources even less accessible than before. BZU president, Dr. Gahi Baramki, describes the situation as a "slow dehumanizing process". In the least such suppression is dis-

heartening, highly prejudiced and destructive.

BZU was not the only university to suffer under the iron claw of Order number 854, the Bethlehem University is being deprived as well. In a 1976 proposal the Bethlehem University decided to undertake a three phase expansionist proposal. The first stage was completed in 1978 with a new library and the second in 1980 with a new science building. The third stage, the construction of a multi-purpose building, will probably never be completed at least not under Israeli rule.

The Israeli military refused to

give the Bethlehem University a permit to build a building that would include a cafeteria, physical education facilities, an auditorium, garage and an office for the dean of students. The building would provide residents

Dutch governments but due to the uncompromising exertion of power by the military the foundations for the building that were supposed to be laid in September of 1982 have not yet been laid.

Yet the persecution of

ing literature, posters and bulletin board materials. On January 17 a variety of night raids on the homes of students took place and notebooks and textbooks were confiscated. On January 18, cars were stopped and body searches

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of West Bank and Gaza with better opportunities without travelling abroad.

The Israeli military refused to grant such a permit, however, with the claim that the Bethlehem University was not "co-operating" with the office. Funding for the venture was by the Swiss and

Palestinian students runs even deeper than the shut-down of BZU or the refusal to grant a development permit to the Bethlehem University. Various reports from 1983 show the extent of this persecution. On January 13, for example, Israeli soldiers raided Bethlehem University tak-

ing literature, posters and bulletin board materials. On January 17 a variety of night raids on the homes of students took place and notebooks and textbooks were confiscated. On January 18, cars were stopped and body searches

From January 15 to 17 no classes were held at Hebron University because thirty students had been arrested. On January 17 five foreign teachers were ordered to stop teaching until they signed the Loyalty Oath. Adnan Damiri, head of Alnajah student council, who was released from prison along with eight other council members on January 25, reports the beating and solitary confinement of students with the prison. The students were held in prison without specified charges and without access to lawyers.

These occurrences are but a few examples of the severe treatment of Palestinian students and suppression of their educational institutions by the Israeli military. The Military Order number 854 legalizes such acts of derogatory persecution and Palestinian students of the occupied areas must suffer the severe consequences.

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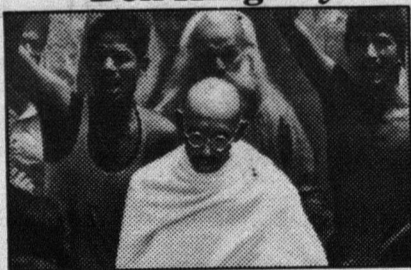
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