

## Al-Quds International Day Observed in Iran, Lebanon, Pakistan, and Bahrain 22 November 03

By Majdur Travail

*Al-Quds International Day was observed with vigor in Iraq, Iran, Lebanon and Bahrain; ignored in the U.S., U.K. and Canada.*



45,000 Muslims demonstrated in Manama, 21 Nov. 03

### Bahrain

45,000 people demonstrated in Bahrain's capital Manama. Community leaders at the rally called for a total ban on Israelis entering Bahrain.

Islamic Enlightenment Society president Sheikh Saeed Al Noori told the *Gulf Daily News*; "We don't want to normalize relationships with Israel or acknowledge their existence within our Arab nation. That would mean forgetting our pain and misery. Israel is trying its best to erase the Palestinian identity and if Arabs don't unite, it will soon be gone," he said.

Sheikh Al Noori said that the aim of the US roadmap was to force Arabs to acknowledge Israel. "But even if Israel gets the recognition of Arab leaders, people will still not deal with them because no one forgets the criminal acts they have committed against humanity," he said.

"When I was in Sweden, thousands of people, Muslims, Christians, Liberals and Marxists joined together to condemn Israel in an event such as this one today. Israelis shouldn't be allowed into the country, for any reason, even as tourists or spectators for the F1 Race to be held in April," Sheikh Al-Noor concluded.

Leading clergyman Sheikh Ibrahim Al Ansari urged people to pursue jihad against the Israelis.

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"Prophet Ibrahim called out against all those who disrespect religion and kill others without any right. Islam is a religion of peace, but when it comes to defending yourself, family land and identity, then there is no alternative to fighting," he remarked. Sheikh Al Ansari stressed that Islamic leaders in Iraq had said that Israeli businessmen in the country should leave or risk being killed.

Speeches by Sheikh Al Noori and Hizbollah secretary-general Naeem Qassim were broadcast via the Internet.



Iran's President Mohammad Khatami at Al-Quds International Day demonstration, Tehran, 21 Nov. 03

### Iran

The *Tehran Times* reported that Millions of people across the world took to the streets Friday calling for the liberation of occupied Palestine and the holy city of Quds to mark the International Day of Quds, which the founder of the Islamic Republic, the late Imam Khomeini, called all Muslims to observe on the last Friday of Ramadan.

"Israel has no future. Those who are counting on a tumor are wrong. The Islamic world must help so we are able to solve the question of Palestine," AFP quoted former president and the current head of Expediency Council Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani as saying.

"We are not those who say the Jews should be thrown into the sea, there are Jews who came to Israel to make homes. That is a fact. But every

person living in Palestine must have a vote," he added.

A statement read by demonstrators declared "Palestinian groups to stay united and not to submit themselves to so-called [peace] plans like the 'roadmap' and follow the course of struggle and jihad." The demonstrators' declaration also called for the setting up of an "international tribunal to judge the Zionist crimes and in particular those of Sharon."

### **Pakistan and Kashmir**



*Al-Quds International Day, Karachi, 21 Nov. 03*

Demonstrations took place in Islamabad, Karachi, Hyderabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Quetta and other major cities. Demonstrators also condemned America for backing Zionists.

Al-Quds International Day was also observed in the Pakistan-administered Kashmir with rallies in different parts of the Valley.

In Islamabad a big demonstration was organized by Shiite groups at the main Aabpara Market. They were chanting slogans against Israeli and the United States. They were holding banners and placards inscribed with anti-US slogans. The speakers regretted that the Western world is silent over the crimes against Palestinians by the Israeli regime. They announced their support for the Palestinians uprising and hoped that sacrifices of Palestinians will yield results. They said Zionists failed to crush the freedom struggle of Palestinians and warned some Palestinian leaders to desist from compromising on the right of self-determination of Palestinians.



*Al-Quds International Day, Beirut, 21 Nov. 03*

### **Iraq**

Thousands of Iraqi Shiites took to the streets of the holy city of Najaf to demonstrate against Israel as they marked Quds Day, banned under ousted leader Saddam Hussein.

Some 3,000 people chanted "Death to Israel", as men, women and children waved banners reading, "Beit-ul-Moqaddas, we are coming", "Beit-ul-Moqaddas Day is the day of Islam", an AFP correspondent reported.

The demonstrators carried Palestinian and Iraqi flags as well as portraits of the late Ayatollah Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

They also held up pictures of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and firebrand Iraqi Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in this city 180 kilometers [110 miles] south of Baghdad. In the northern oil city of Kirkuk, around 5,000 Iraqis likewise showed their solidarity with the Palestinians.

## Lebanon



Hizbollah, Al-Quds International Day, 21 Nov. 03

The *Daily Star* reported Hizbollah celebrated International Jerusalem Day on Friday in the Beirut area of Haret Hreik in a massive popular gathering that witnessed a military parade by units of the resistance movement in the presence of various prominent officials, as well as party and military personalities.

The event saw the participation of children dressed in military uniforms, holding banners of the resistance and the Intifada.



A musical band played the martyrs' hymn. Participants in the parade shouted slogans denouncing Israel and pledging its defeat and victory of the resistance. At the end of the ceremony, Nasrallah gave a speech in which he highlighted the responsibility of the whole Arab nation to financially support the Palestinian people and their struggle, stressing that the Israeli state was facing a security and political danger, especially after the military and security failure of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government. "With the consolidation of the Intifada, hesitation will grow," he said, adding that he would not be surprised to witness the calls for withdrawal from Gaza and the Occupied

Territories within the 1967 borders turned into a slogan for the next Israeli elections.

Commenting on the prisoner exchange, Nasrallah said that negotiations were being kept secret to guarantee their success in the current delicate situation.

"On International Jerusalem Day, I pledge once again never to abandon Palestinians and strive for their liberation, the way our land was restored to us," he said. Hizbollah's secretary-general added that if negotiations failed to yield a prisoner swap, the resistance would never relinquish its detainees no matter what the sacrifices, threats or maneuvers.

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