

"The 21st Year" against the Occupation

May 27, 1989

Press release

27 members of The 21st Year were detained in Kalkilia on Friday morning, May 26, 1989, upon arriving at the outskirts of the town, in order to express their opposition to the army's intent to demolish residents' homes. The army, having prohibited their entrance into the town, detained them for allegedly breaking the law and transferred them to the Kalkilia Police Station. The detainees spent the night under custody in Hadera, at the Haifa Port Police and the Kishon detention center. By Friday their attorney, Avigdor Feldman, had already submitted a request for a hearing to the acting judge, Judge Fass, at the Shalom Court in Petach Tikva in order to discuss their release. In spite of the fact that the police were notified, no representative was sent on their behalf, and the hearing was postponed to Saturday morning. Judge Fass refused the request for their release, and the detainees will be brought before a judge on Sunday morning in order to extend their detention. The police charge members of the movement with entering a closed military area and incitement of local residents. A representative of the police will request to extend their detention until the termination of legal procedures.

There is no doubt that, like the decision of Judge Banai last week, the decision of Judge Fass (who had not even deemed it necessary to reprimand the police for failing to send a representative to the hearing) is an expression of the the distortion of the legal system and the way in which

the law is carried out. While the army and the police authorities back the unruly actions of the settlers' bands and close their eyes to their brutal law breaking, they are quick to arrest citizens who peacefully oppose the oppressive actions of both the army and the settlers.

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