

300 Political Prisoners in Jordan

The General Secretariat of the Committee for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms in Jordan, issued the following statement:

Dr. Suleiman Suwais, a member of our general secretariat since its establishment in 1979, was arrested November 24th by the Jordanian authorities. He has a doctorate in social sciences from the Sorbonne in Paris, and works as a social researcher, journalist and writer. Dr. Suwais is a member of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists. He also works in Amnesty International, and other international as well as Arab organizations. We call for immediate intervention to secure the release of Dr. Suwais and all political prisoners, and to put an end to the broad campaign of repression against unions, student, cultural and youth organizations in Jordan.

According to recent information, a number of political detainees have been transferred from the Irbid district prison to Al Zarqa military prison (Ahmad al Makhel and Mohammad Abu Marar). Many others are still at the General Intelligence Headquarters in Amman (Ali Amer, Bassam Haddadin, Majid al Muraidi, Mazin al Asaad...). We cannot establish contact and we are concerned about their health and about their being subjected to torture.

We ask the International Red Cross to send representatives to meet the detainees, investigate their condition and publicize the results.

The total number of political prisoners and detainees in Jordan has increased remarkably to reach 300 at the end of November 1985, i.e., there has been a 40% increase in the number since April 1985.

Below is a list of the citizens detained in the recent campaign:

PNC member Ali Amer

GUPWJ members Bassam Haddadin, Samih Khalid Salameh, Majid al Muraidi and Suleiman Suwais

Member of the Jordanian Writers Association Mazin al Asaad

Member of the Administrative Council of

Palestinian Teachers Union; PNC member Mohammad Abu Marar

Pharmacist Mohammad Suleiman Saleh

Engineer Mohammad Nour al Beitar

Student movement activists: Amer Karadsheh, Jamal Armouti, Emad

Hourani, Ibrahim Nassir, Izzet al Helbouni, Akrem Salameh, Ouda al Ja'afra, Ayman Saleem al Ahmad, Jamal Shurbajee, Hussam Abu Ishtaih, Hazem al Ashheb

Trade unionists: Osamah Hamzeh, Adel Jadallah, Ibrahim Matar.

Prisoners' memorandum

92 political prisoners in Al Mahatta Central Prison in Amman addressed a memorandum to the spokesman of the Committee for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms and to members of the Jordanian parliament. They demanded:

A. Intervention to stop the ongoing detention campaign, and investigation of the unconstitutional repressive practices of the security institutions;

B. Intervention to stop house raids at night, physical and psychological torture, and retaliatory measures against the relatives of the detainees by dismissing them from work or prohibiting them from travel;

C. Release of administrative detainees who have been held for 25-60 months without trial (Yousef al Zaghari, Suphi al Tellawi, Abed Rahim Awad, Yousef Jalal, Atiah Jweed, Khaled Bwati, Adnan Ajag, Ahmad al Khatib);

D. The cancellation of the capital punishment sentence against citizen Brak al Hadeed who has been under arrest for 94 months;

E. Inclusion of political prisoners in the general amnesty declared in June 1985;

F. End to the policy of sending political prisoners to different Jordanian prisons. Regathering them in one special prison, provided with health care facilities and the necessary humane conditions.

In the memorandum, the political prisoners put forward the case of Ibrahim Rihawi, who was tried 15 years ago, and was twice included in general amnesty, only to be rearrested without trial. They also cited the case of twenty

other political prisoners who were declared innocent by the emergency court on grounds of lack of substantial evidence. The military intelligence service detained them again, in spite of the court findings, thus violating the court decree.

Also included among the prisoners' demands was the cancellation of the extraordinary laws and emergency regulations and special courts. They also called for the implementation of the constitution and putting into practice democratic freedoms, first and foremost the freedom to form political parties and organizations, and the release of all political prisoners and detainees. ●

Prisoners' Call



Sixty-six political prisoners in Mahatta Central Prison (Amman) issued the following appeal to international human rights organizations, in solidarity with the hunger strikes in occupied Palestine.

We of the Jordanian national movement and the Palestinian revolution in Mahatta, declare our solidarity with our comrades' strike in the prisons of the occupied territories. We affirm the legitimacy and justice of their demands for a halt to the campaigns of collective extermination and oppression to which they are subjected in the jails of the occupation. We condemn these inhuman measures and appeal to all international organizations to intervene immediately to put a stop to the deportations, exterminations and forced emigration practiced against our Palestinian Arab masses in the occupied territories. We call for support to the political detainees strike, so that they can achieve their demands. ●