

without being permitted to meet with their families (Azmi al Shuaibi, Hasan Fararga, Ali Abu Hilal).

We appeal to you in the name of international solidarity with human and civil rights, to act expediently to save the four detainees and to prevent their deportation and forced separation from their homes and families. We call upon you to send fact-finding delegations, and to send cables to the Israeli Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of

Defense, protesting their actions. We also call upon you to make these facts known by calling conferences to describe the conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, and to express your solidarity in all possible ways.

Our people shall not forget those who stand by them in their just struggle against repression, and for ending the occupation and gaining their right to self-determination. We thank you for your cooperation and support. ●

Khaled Tantash Deported...

Who's Next?

Khaled Tantash, a 38 year old Palestinian released from Israeli prisons in the May 1985 prisoner exchange, was deported on December 25th. He had served 15 years on charges of resisting the occupation forces. From May until December, he found himself at home, surrounded by family and friends - something that he had only been able to dream of during the long years of his imprisonment.

On December 24th, Khaled reported to the Moskobia jail (the Russian Compound) in Jerusalem, to check in with the Zionist authorities as he was required to do twice daily after his release. Little did he know that on this day he would be wrenched from the security of home and family, and once again plunged into the nightmare of Zionist inhumanity. Only two days later did his

family and lawyer learn of his rearrest and deportation.

Outside Palestine, Khaled recounts the story: «As usual I went to Moskobia at 9 a.m. to check in as I do everyday. I was surprised by the order for my arrest. I was asked if I knew of a way to contact my family and bid them farewell. I was shocked into silence for a few minutes. Then I said, 'How can I contact them when you are holding me prisoner?' They didn't answer...After about an hour they took me to the military governor's building in Khalil (Hebron). I met with the military governor who began to ask my opinion about political matters like the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. Then they put me in a solitary cell. When I tried to ask the reason, I felt I was speaking to stones.

«I asked for blankets. They agreed

but brought me none. The next day, a military officer came with two others from the military police. They blindfolded me and led me away. When I asked where they were taking me, they didn't answer. Suddenly I felt that a group of people were carrying me forcibly. I was thrown into a car which went at a fantastic speed for three hours before stopping.

«I was let down at a point near the borders, which I later learned to be Wadi Araba. A number of Zionist military men approached and told me a military doctor would examine me. After the examination, a Zionist colonel came up to me, saying he had a paper from the Israeli Security Minister that I should sign. He asked if I read Hebrew and I answered affirmatively. He tried to give me the paper, but I refused and told him to read it to me. He read: 'I, Yitzhak Rabin, Minister of Israeli Security, take personal responsibility for executing the deportation of Khaled Tantash of Jerusalem for political and security reasons.' I was ordered to sign the paper, but refused. They threatened me and tried to force me to sign it, but this only made me more determined to refuse. I told them, 'I reject your deportation policy and my case is still in court.' »

Khaled Tantash was forced to cross the bridge to Jordan, leaving behind all he held dear. His deportation is not the first and last reminder that the iron fist of the Israeli 'doves' is no less vicious than that of the 'hawks'. ●

Al Aqsa

Symbol of Palestinian Steadfastness

The visits made by Zionist parliamentarians and fanatics to Al Aqsa mosque are not only transgressions, but flagrant provocations against the Palestinian people's religious and nationalist feelings. The MKs (members of the Knesset) declared that their intent was to investigate reports of illegal construction on the Temple Mount, site of Al Aqsa mosque. Yet the truth of Zionist intentions is apparent: The enemy will continue attempts to Judaize Jerusalem, camouflaging its plans to destroy Al Aqsa with appeals for «allowing Jews to pray» there.

Al Aqsa mosque is the third holiest Moslem shrine in the world after Mecca and Medina. From here, the prophet Mohammad is believed to have ascend-

ed to heaven. Today there are only Moslem buildings on the Mount which is mainly controlled by the Waqf, the Supreme Moslem Council.

On January 8th, ten MKs, accompanied by an official photographer, went to Al Aqsa on the pretext of investigating reports that Moslems had «erected illegal structures, including a monument to Palestinian refugees killed in Beirut's Sabra and Shatila» massacres. They insulted religious feelings by smoking and taking photographs in the mosque. One MK pushed aside a Moslem guard who asked them to stop smoking.

Palestinians, Moslems and Christians alike, were alert to the far-reaching implications of the Zionists' visit. Thousands thronged to the streets to

protest, in response to the call of the prayer leader over the mosque's loudspeaker. The Israeli army and border police set up check points on all roads, especially those leading to Jerusalem, to prevent the surge of Palestinians from reaching Al Aqsa for the following Friday prayers. The enemy forces also surrounded educational institutions in the West Bank in anticipation of popular uprisings. The demonstrators at the mosque were teargassed as the occupation forces escorted the MKs out. According to a Zionist spokesman on January 9th: «The eastern sector of Jerusalem is still surrounded by (occupation) forces and we are ready to confront any angry reactions.»