



*Egyptians protest Khater's murder*

## **Murderous 'suicide'**

Blind to the hundreds of thousands who demonstrated and petitioned for Suleiman's release, deaf to the calls of Arab and international democratic and progressive forces, Mubarak's henchmen carried out their vile act. In blatant defiance of all logic, the official coroner's report declared that Suleiman had committed suicide, despite all the facts pointing to murder. The idea of suicide to cover up the crime is totally ludicrous. Not only was Suleiman's emotional state indisposed to suicide, but it was physically impossible that he hanged himself as the authorities described, in view of the following facts:

1. The window he was supposed to have hung himself from was three meters from the floor. The bars of the window protruded outwards, while from the inside, the window was covered with a metal screen.

2. Eleven guards were assigned to keep watch on Suleiman on a 24-hour basis.

3. A doctor present at the pre-funeral washing of the body noted blood clots around the eyes, indicating that he had been strangled, lying down, with a wire approximately 3 mm thick. (The regime prevented an independent autopsy as was requested by family and friends.) The same doctor noted cuts and bruises on the body and the skin under his fingernails, indicating that he had resisted.

4. The day before the murder, he had requested his university textbooks in order to start studying for exams. He was moreover optimistic about being

pardoned and having his sentence reduced.

## **Mass protest**

Popular sentiments erupted at the news of Suleiman's life sentence and subsequent hanging. Mass demonstrations, sit-ins and protests broke out. Feelings ran high during the demonstrations which assumed a new, political dimension as the masses let loose their pent-up rancor against Mubarak and his unholy allies: Zionism and the US. Slogans resounded like «Cancel Camp David, We want a free government and a free life, Stop the 1981 emergency laws, All Egyptians are Khater, Mubarak - Suleiman cleansed your sins!» - reflecting exactly what Suleiman Khater had come to signify. He was not, as the defense minister would have all believe, a «crazy policeman who in a fit of remorse committed suicide.»



Thousands of demonstrators poured into the streets to express their indignation, from Al Azhar, Cairo, Ain Shams, Zaqazig, Banha and Al Mansoura universities. A state of emergency was declared. Hundreds of anti-riot troops blocked the roads leading to the capital, and tried to disperse the crowds with tear gas and clubs. Pictures of Mubarak, and the Israeli and US flags, were burned at all demonstrations. Two cameramen, one Egyptian and the other French, were thrown out of one university with shouts of «Get out, you Zionists!»

In Akyad, Suleiman's birthplace, approximately 100 km. northeast of Cairo, his funeral developed into a mass demonstration. Eyewitnesses reported the participation of thousands from Akyad and surrounding villages and towns. The police set up roadblocks to prevent more people from entering Akyad. Telephone lines were cut, and reporters were banned from the village. The mourners raised black placards of protest. The US and Israeli flags were burnt and slogans shouted against the Egyptian defense ministry. The village police station was burnt and government buildings attacked. His family refused to receive condolences - a traditional sign that they had sworn revenge for the death.

If Mubarak and his henchmen think that they have dispensed with Suleiman's case by murdering him, they would do well to remember that «We are Suleiman Khater and Suleiman Khater is us.»