

True Internationalist

*In March, the PFLP commemorated the martyrdom of the great
Palestinian revolutionary, Wadi' Haddad.*



On March 27th, 1978, Comrade George Habash, with tears in his eyes, announced the martyrdom of Wadi' Haddad, one of the great leaders of the Palestinian revolution, with the following words: *Comrades of Wadi', Palestinian revolutionaries, our steadfast people in Palestine, brothers and sisters in every camp and place of exile, our Arab masses, progressive comrades around the world...With a heart full of love and pain, sorrow and determination to continue the struggle to victory, I announce the martyrdom of our comrade in life and struggle, Wadi' Haddad. I announce to you the martyrdom of Wadi' of the camps, Wadi' of the oppressed, Wadi' of the confrontation against the Zionist invasion and the reactionary Jordanian plots.*

Wadi' Haddad graduated from the

American University in Beirut in 1952. During his school years, he combined studying and politics, and was distinguished in both. After graduating as a medical doctor, he devoted his efforts to the poor and the refugee camp population. He was among the initiators of the Arab Nationalist Movement, helping to build its first armed cells in the West Bank and Jordan, with the aim of liberating all of Palestine from Zionism. He was active in building the mass movement in the mid-fifties.

As a result of his revolutionary activities, Wadi' was imprisoned in Jordan in 1957, and served three years. In 1960, he was expelled from Jordan. In 1967, he was one of the founding members of the PFLP, and a leader in organizing armed struggle, based on belief in the peoples' war as the only way

to liberate Palestine. Wadi' stressed the importance of destroying the superman image of the enemy camp. He raised and practiced the slogan: *Pursue the enemy everywhere*. Wadi' was in charge of the PFLP's international operations which were a major factor in forcing western public opinion to acknowledge the existence of the Palestinian cause in the early seventies. In coordination with internationalist militants, the tables were turned: From being pursued by imperialist and Mossad agents, revolutionaries went on the offensive, pursuing the enemy in the international arena. This caused the enemy camp to designate our comrade, Wadi', as the number one terrorist in the world at that time.

In reality, Wadi' was far from being a terrorist. He was a sensitive humanist who cried upon seeing the suffering of children. He was always searching for the lost childhood of which Zionism had robbed him. Wadi' was a humble person who refused cameras and publicity. He disliked big, complicated words. He did not enjoy engaging in lengthy political discussions, because for him, things were quite clear: He was ready to give his life for Palestine and the Arab revolution, and he would fight the enemy camp to his last breath. His moral code was simple: What gets us closer to Palestine is good, and what moves us farther from Palestine is bad.

Wadi' never lost his optimism. In his last days of sickness, he kept up with the political developments. His friends say that when he talked, one felt that we were returning to Palestine the next day. Wadi' was a revolutionary humanitarian who hated evil, and whose role in our area can be compared to that of Che Guevara. Because of his search for his lost playgrounds in Safad, his place of birth in the Galilee, they called him a terrorist. We, on the contrary, will always remember his great role as a creative revolutionary. We will struggle until we liberate every inch of Palestine, and can name a playground in Safad after Wadi' Haddad. ●