

# Palestinian Youth Organization

## First Congress

The first general congress of the Palestinian Youth Organization was held from April 25th to 28th. The congress was the culmination of the congresses of all the PYO units, commissariats and branches. Delegates from the branches in Syria and Lebanon, as well as branches abroad, participated.

The PYO invited several Palestinian, Arab and international youth organizations to the opening session. Doctor George Habash, General Secretary, and several other leaders of the PFLP, were present. The following delivered speeches during the opening session: The Central Preparatory Committee of the PYO; The General Secretary of the Egyptian Democratic Youth Union; a Central Committee member of the Palestinian Communist Youth Union; PFLP Politbureau member, Abdul Raheem Mallouh. In addition, telegrams were received from different Palestinian, Arab and international youth organizations.

### FINAL STATEMENT OF THE FIRST GENERAL PYO CONGRESS

The first general congress of the Palestinian Youth Organization (PYO) was held, under the slogan: «Consolidating the struggle of the PYO in order to:

- preserve the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people;
- achieve the national rights of our people, first and foremost their rights to return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state; and
- unite Palestinian youth in a democratic youth union.»

The convening of the first congress of the PYO constitutes an important, qualitative step towards recruiting the Palestinian youth and uniting their national militant efforts. It is also the culmination of the various congresses of the PYO branches.

The congress discussed and approved the central preparatory committee's various reports, and their evaluation of the past period. The congress also discussed, amended and then approved the internal rules of the PYO. In addition, a number of research papers and studies were approved for publication. The studies dealt with the development of the Palestinian youth movement, the situation of our youth in the occupied territories, and the ideological brainwashing and distortion of nationalism,

which is enacted against our youth by imperialism and reactionary forces.

The congress highly evaluated the role of our youth in the occupied territories in the struggle against the Zionist and reactionary plans. It called for giving all forms of support to consolidate their struggle. The congress studied the reality of the dispersion of our Palestinian youth and their various organizations. It concluded the discussion by reaffirming the significance of uniting the Palestinian youth in one democratic youth union. One of the main tasks for the PYO's newly elected general secretariat is to launch a broad campaign to activate dialogue among the different Palestinian youth organizations in order to facilitate the process of mobilizing all the Palestinian youth and uniting their organization. This process is the youth's active contribution to the struggle to restore the unity of the PLO on a national basis, with firm struggle against imperialism, Zionism and all capitulationists. It is also the PYO's duty to motivate the PLO leadership to continue support to our people's struggle for achieving their national rights to return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their land.

One of the congress sessions reviewed the situation of the Arab youth movement, its common interests and concerns. The role of Arab youth was highly evaluated. Various recommendations and resolutions were considered for improving relations with the Arab Youth Union, to enable our youth organization to participate in defending the just cause of the Arab people.

A great deal of emphasis was put on the significance of improving relations with all democratic Arab youth unions and organizations.

The congress also reviewed the role of the democratic youth movement on the international level. The role of the international democratic youth organizations was highly evaluated in terms of solidarity with all the peoples struggling for liberation. The congress also emphasized the importance of establishing broad bilateral relations with the communist youth unions in the socialist community.

On the political level, the congress discussed the difficult situation of the Arab world in general and the Palestinian cause in particular. On the Palestinian level, it was concluded that it is important at this stage to mitigate the severe splits from which the Palestinian

cause is suffering, in order to protect the significant achievements of the past twenty years of struggle, and to maintain the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The congress viewed the official PLO leadership's collaboration with the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plans as the main threat to the Palestinian cause. Furthermore, the Arafat-Hussein agreement signed on February 11, 1985, was the first step towards complete involvement in the liquidationist settlement. This agreement entails a series of dangerous concessions which aim at the total liquidation of the Palestinian cause.

In his speech, King Hussein decided that all political coordination with the leadership of the PLO had come to a halt. Yet he emphasized his commitment to the agreement as the basis for any future political moves. The king's speech exposed the real intentions of the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary forces that are pushing for the agreement. The present PLO leadership's adherence to this agreement, on the other hand, only proves its unwillingness to seriously review its policies and withdraw from the agreement.

The congress called upon the Palestinian youth, the various youth organizations and all the Palestinian democratic, progressive and national factions, to struggle to foil the Amman agreement and restore the unity of the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, based on adherence to the national program, a firm political stance against imperialism and Zionism and their plans, and total democratic reform in the structure of the PLO and its institutions. Cancellation of the Amman agreement and restoration of the PLO's unity on the basis of the national program, are two current tasks. Achieving them would contribute to the support and consolidation of the struggle of our people in the occupied territories. It would strengthen their ranks in the face of Zionism's fascist practices, its attempts to create substitutes for the PLO and its plans of 'civil' administration and 'autonomy' in cooperation with the Jordanian regime. The unity of our people and their national forces is the guarantee for the continuation of the revolution and retrieving our people's rights to return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

It was also noted during the congress that despite the defeat suffered by imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction