

or where Mr. Abdel Malek is being detained. They refused the request of the International Red Cross to meet him and see the circumstances of his detention. It is noteworthy that Ali Abdel Malek was arrested several times before, most recently at the end of March 1983.

On January 19th, the authorities arrested the student militant, Luai Ahmad Dabbagh, former member of the executive committee of the General Union of Jordanian Students. He is married and has two daughters.

On January 6th, the authorities detained Dr. Said Mustafa Zyab, member of the Jordanian Doctors' Union, after savagely searching his home and clinic. Dr. Zyab has heart problems; he is married.

On January 10th, the authorities detained Mr. Mahmoud Fakhry Assalhi, member of the administrative committee of the youth center in Al Hussein camp.

On January 8th, the authorities arrested the citizen, Abdel Aziz Mahmoud Naem.

The security forces also arrested scores of other citizens, among them: the militant, Yousef Al Rajoub, who had been exiled from the occupied territories (Palestine), lawyer Salah Bader, and writer Omar Shabbanah, member of the Jordanian Writers' League.

CONVICTIONS

A military court sentenced Mrs. Huda Ahmad Oqla to three years in jail on charges of membership in the Democratic Front's organization in Jordan. Mrs. Huda Oqla was arrested on November 26, 1986. She is the first woman to be arrested and convicted on political charges. The Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms in Jordan are informed that she was subjected to torture and humiliation by the investigators from the moment of her detention and during her interrogation at the Irbid branch of the General Intelligence. Mrs. Oqla is married and the mother of seven children.

The military court sentenced the student union activist Mazin Abdel Wahid Al Asaad under martial law to three years of imprisonment on charges of being a member of an 'illegal organization'. This student militant

was detained in October 1985, as a result of the regime's terrorist campaign against the Jordanian universities. This is the second time he has been convicted on the same charge, which is contradictory to Jordanian law. A military court previously sentenced him to five years imprisonment which ended in early 1983.

A military court, under martial law, also sentenced Amer Kerdasha, a medical student at the Jordanian University, to three years imprisonment. Mr. Kerdasha has been detained several times before by the General Intelligence: In April 1985, he spent several months in the intelligence jails, and then was rearrested in October 1985. After his release, he was once again arrested in late 1986 and brought to trial early this year.

Several other political and union militants were brought to military courts. Recently the trial of Hasan Annajjar and Munier Yousef started, on charges of being 'members of an illegal organization'. The trials of other citizens in military courts on the same charges has ended. Hasan Abu Zied, Fayes Al Sharif and Ahmad Al Muhseiry are awaiting the military court's decision to impose imprisonment on them.

SILENCING THE PRESS, PARLIAMENT AND YOUTH

As for other human rights' violations, the Jordanian authorities continue to breach freedom of the press and to intervene illegally in the functioning of unions. The authorities lately issued a decree whereby several journalists were prevented from writing in newspapers. Among them are: Abdel Rahim Omar, Fahd Al Rimawi, Tareq Masarwah, Khalid Mhadin, Rakan Al Majali and Fahd Al Fank. The authorities also issued a decision to discharge the journalist Mohammad Said Madhyah from his post at *Saut Al Shaab* newspaper on a tyrannical pretext - that he was absent from his job for no reason, knowing in fact that he was detained at the time. Security forces are also conducting a pursuit and terror campaign against Jordanian journalists who work for foreign news agencies and newspapers, whenever they publish reports that are not in ac-

cordance with the trend of the official policy.

There have also been violations of parliamentary rights. The government forbade parliament members from publishing a statement of solidarity (with Syria after Britain cut relations) in the Jordanian press. This led to a forceful argument between representative Leith Al Shablani and Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib. The argument ended in a closed meeting between Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifa'i and 25 members of parliament. The prime minister talked about the utmost necessity of restraining the political activities of the Representative Council. The results later became apparent when the government forbade representatives from sending memoranda condemning the continuation of the war of the camps in Lebanon, and calling for its immediate halt.

In another field, the Jordanian authorities continued their campaign against the 12 UNRWA youth clubs and centers in Jordan. After joining these centers to the Youth Ministry, the Jordanian security authorities disbanded the elected administrative committees of some of these centers and appointed new administrative committees.

At Yarmouk University, where there was a savage massacre of students by the security forces last May, the university administration, with counsel from the security authorities, formed a committee to investigate a number of students on charges of «violating honor and dignity.» This was after the students staged a peaceful sit-in at the university in solidarity with the besieged Palestinian camps in Lebanon, and with the students at Bir Zeit University in occupied Palestine.

The Committee for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms in Jordan called on all to express their solidarity by issuing press statements, writing about and discussing this matter in media circles, and contacting the Jordanian government, demanding that it stop its violations of human rights and release all political prisoners, especially the distinguished nationalist leader, Azmi Al Khawaja. ●