

Freedom to Azmi Al Khawaja and All Political Prisoners in Jordan

On January 12th, the Jordanian authorities raided and searched the home of the distinguished nationalist leader, Mr. Azmi Al Khawaja, member of the PFLP's Politbureau, the Palestinian National Council and the Jordanian Peace and Solidarity Committee. He was arrested and placed in solitary confinement at the General Intelligence jail in Amman. This repressive act against Azmi Al Khawaja (Abu Issam) is part of the broad arrest campaign enacted by the Jordanian security forces over the past month.

Azmi Abdul Aziz Khawaja was born in Ramallah, Palestine in 1936. He has a B.S. in Business from Cairo University. He worked as a teacher in the Ramallah area schools until the 1967 occupation of the West Bank. He suffers from kidney and stomach diseases which make the fact of his detention an especially dangerous matter. He has been arrested by the Jordanian authorities three times before and held for varying periods: once for three years, another time for two years, and the third time from September 1981 until June 7, 1982.

The General Secretariat of the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms in Jordan issued a communique upon Abu Issam's arrest, strongly condemning this oppressive measure, and calling on international organizations and all democratic, juridical and humanitarian institutions to issue statements of condemnation and to contact the Jordanian government, demanding the release of Abu Issam and all political prisoners in Jordan's jails.

