

and putting his arm in boiled oil so the flesh would heal. I can't forget the children crying for food. I urge all the Arab countries to send their officials to see the inhuman conditions we live in.»

EXPECTATIONS

Aggression against the Palestinian people and camps in Lebanon has still not stopped. All indications point to the possibility of another explosion and a new episode of the camp war. In spite of the ceasefire concluded in April, the Palestinian camps in Beirut and South Lebanon are still besieged.

There have been a series of arrests and other provocations in the camps of the Tyre area. Tens of Palestinian youth were arrested in Al Bus and Burj Al Shamali camps in a very brutal way. In Rashidiyah camp, Amal has started fortifying its positions and bringing in more arms. In Beirut, the Palestinians in Shatila and Burj al Barajneh are forbidden to walk out of the camps in order to get food. Only a minimum of food and medical supplies are permitted to enter the camps. Around Ain al Hilweh and Miye Miyeh in the Sidon area, Amal is reinforcing its fortifications, armament and forces.

Amal has continued its policy of terror and intimidation against Palestinian and Lebanese patriots. Along with the latest political developments, particularly the cancellation of the Cairo agreement and the assassination of Prime Minister Karami, everything indicates that the situation will be ignited once again, to block the nationalist struggle against the Zionist-fascist plans. It is therefore most important for the Lebanese nationalist forces to confront Amal's plan for eliminating Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon, for this is part of implementing a sectarian solution. At the same time, the Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian nationalist alliance should be consolidated against the Zionist-fascist plans.

The previous camp wars have turned against Amal. If Amal again starts such a war, the results will be horrendous, for the Palestinians will resist fiercely to protect their presence in Lebanon, and to protect the PLO from all sectarian plans.

Dr. Hassan Hamdan

Communist Writer Assassinated

On April 18th, reactionary forces carried out yet another murder in the streets of Beirut, coldly silencing Dr. Hassan Hamdan, who was known as Mahdi Aamel, a Lebanese communist and great Marxist thinker.

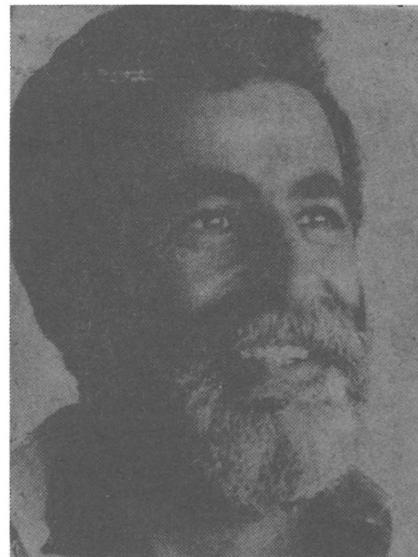
Murderous bullets torn apart the body of Dr. Hassan Hamdan, and another patriot fell victim to the sectarian project in Lebanon, like Hussein Mroweh, Khalil Naous, Suheil Taweileh, Labib Abdul Samad and scores of Palestinian men, women and children in the camps of Lebanon. Their 'guilt' lay in their antagonism to the sectarian fascist project; their 'guilt' lay in their aspirations for a democratic Lebanon, the simple fact of being a member of the Lebanese Communist Party or being a Palestinian. The assassination of Hassan Hamdan, like that of respected Lebanese Communists before him, is an attempt to silence all democratic voices as a prelude to imposing the sectarian project in Lebanon.

Despite the great loss signified by the martyrdom of Hassan Hamdan, we are positive that his comrades will continue on the same path. His works will continue to disturb and expose his assassins, while his comrades will strengthen their confidence in the victory of the democratic project and the defeat of the sectarian one. If the bullets that killed Dr. Hamdan had known where they were headed, they would undoubtedly have returned to where they came from.

DR. HAMDAN'S LIFE

Dr. Hassan Hamdan was born in 1936. His hometown is Harouf in Nabatiyah province, South Lebanon. He obtained a bachelor's and doctor's degree in philosophy at Lyon University in France. He taught philosophy at the social sciences college of the Lebanese University. He was an active member of the Lebanese Writers' Union, South Lebanon's Cultural Council and the Lebanese University Teachers' League.

Dr. Hamdan was active in the struggles of the Lebanese students, youth, teachers, writers and intellectuals. He participated in organizing the na-



tionalist confrontation against the Zionist occupation in South Lebanon, and against the fascist project in Beirut and the mountains. He was active in the resistance to the Zionist siege of Beirut in 1982, and in the liberation of Beirut. In 1960, he joined the Lebanese Communist Party on the basis of his conviction in scientific socialism. At the party's fifth congress in 1987, he was elected to the central committee.

WORKS

Dr. Hamdan published a number of studies concerning the Lebanese and other Arab societies. Among his works we mention only a few:

- «A Study of the Causes of the Lebanese Civil Wars» (1979);
- «The Dilemma of the Arab Civilization or the Dilemma of the Arab Bourgeoisie?» (1980);
- «A Prelude to Refuting Sectarian Thought» (1980);
- «About the Sectarian State» (1986).

Dr. Hamdan also wrote poetry and a number of studies and articles that were published in different magazines and newspapers. He was a member of the staff of the famous Lebanese magazine, *Al Tariq*.