

Palestinian and Jordanian nationalists, unionists and student activists had been summoned by the intelligence and subsequently detained. One of them is Taysir Al Zubri, DFLP Politbureau member.

The Jordanian authorities have also imposed new restrictions on the press, even affecting foreign press coverage. In early May, the press accreditation of two reporters, Lamis Andoni and Samira Kawar, both of whom work for western news organizations, was cancelled.

In addition, the regime is relying on stooges to repress the mass movement. Most notorious among these is Abu Al Zaim, who led a pro-Jordanian split in Fatah after King Hussein suspended cooperation with the PLO in 1986.

Despite all this, the Jordanian and Palestinian nationalist and democratic forces have organized a series of activities in support of the uprising. For example, on March 6th, declared as the day of the Palestinian flag by the United National Leadership of the Uprising, thousands of Palestinian flags were distributed all over Jordan and hoisted over the rooftops of homes. March 8th being International Women's Day, dozens of Palestinian and Jordanian women held a sit-in at the Red Cross office in Amman, and burned the US flag. The next day, March 9th, was declared Palestinian Martyrs' Day; students of the Jordanian University in Amman rallied and placed hundreds of wreaths on the university's monument to the martyrs. Even more activities occurred around March 30th, the Day of the Land.

LAND DAY DEMONSTRATIONS

One of the biggest demonstrations took place in Al Wehdat, the large Palestinian camp outside Amman. Hundreds of people raised Palestinian flags and chanted slogans in support of the uprising and the PLO. They denounced the Schultz plan and the maneuvers of Abu Zaim. The security forces tried to disperse the three-hour demonstration, but failed.

Also in the Amman area, more than 800 students demonstrated at the Jordanian University, protesting the policy of the US and the Egyptian regime. The demonstrators raised the demand that students in the West Bank and Gaza Strip be exempted from paying tuition, and that they should receive a monthly

allowance to support the continuation of the uprising. The demonstrators sent a telegram to the Jordanian prime minister, demanding that the regime reject the Schultz plan, and give the masses the right to express solidarity with the uprising. They also demanded the release of all political prisoners in Jordan, and that Palestinian armed struggle against the Zionist enemy be allowed from Jordan.

Students at Yarmouk University in Irbid clashed with the security forces that tried to prevent them from demonstrating. The authorities also attempted to have some of their stooges stage a counter-demonstration at the same time, but failed.

A mass rally was held in the trade union headquarters. Speaking at the rally were PNC President Abdul Hamid Al Sayih; the Jordanian parliament deputy, Abd Allah Al Akaila; the head of the Jordanian doctors' union, Mamduh Al Abadi; and a number of other Palestinian and Jordanian nationalists. The speakers saluted the uprising and called for an independent Palestinian state, led by the PLO. They called for struggle to achieve democratic freedoms in Jordan, and the release of all political prisoners. The rally culminated in a demonstration. The security forces surrounded the area, but did not interfere.

Political prisoners in Al Jafra issued a statement condemning the Arab reactionary regimes' silence about the brutal Israeli acts against the Palestinian people. The prisoners urged the convening of an Arab summit to take the required decisions in support of the uprising. They demanded that all the countries surrounding occupied Palestine open their borders to the Palestinian resistance.

The Jordanian National Committee for Support of the Uprising issued a communique condemning the regime's repression of activities supporting the uprising, such as the arrests and the storming of patriots' homes. The committee called on the masses to carry out all forms of activities in support of the uprising, and condemned the regime's suspicious moves.

High school students in Al Nuzha quarter of Amman attempted three times to stage a demonstration, but were attacked by the police; many students were arrested. The intelligence summoned the parents of many of the students and forced them to sign a

pledge to pay 500 dinars if their children participated in demonstrations. To back up this pressure, the passports of some parents were confiscated. Many students of Al Nuzha were forcibly transferred to schools in other quarters; still others were expelled from classes altogether.

THE REGIME'S QUANDRY

The broad mass sympathy for the uprising in Jordan itself accentuates the degree to which the regime feels threatened by the popular revolt in the occupied territories. On this background, one can understand the regime's new verbal position on Middle East peace talks. King Hussein is taking great pains to stress that he will not speak on behalf of the Palestinian people, that only the PLO can do that. In contrast to his notorious ambitions to control the occupied West Bank, the king now insists that he will negotiate only on the subject of Jordanian land occupied by the Israelis (20km² south of the Dead Sea, and 5km² in the north, close to the Syrian border).

The regime's retreat from its historical ambitions to absorb the Palestinian cause is, of course, only tactical. But it appears as the monarchy's only option in a situation where the continuation of the uprising has blocked the Schultz plan, while Likud's intransigence makes the convening of an international conference look remote. Deprived of these diplomatic covers for his moves to replace the PLO, the king has no choice but to change his tactics and demagogery. This is all the more so since the effects of the uprising are reaching into the regime itself. The monarchy's strategy for absorbing the Palestinian cause has relied on cooptation of a strata of the Palestinian bourgeoisie into the ruling class and regime in Jordan. Some of these Palestinians now find themselves torn by dual loyalty, since the uprising has made it unavoidably clear that the Palestinian people reject the Jordanian regime's plan and insist on their own right to self-determination and statehood. As a result, there has been conflict between Jordanian ministers and those of Palestinian origin. Continuation of the uprising can only compound the Jordanian regime's quandry, while presenting the alternative of popular struggle as the force for democratic change in Palestine and Jordan as well.