

drawing up their political framework and directions in accordance with the principles of political pluralism...»

In the JCP's view: «The most serious problem faced by people in Jordan is the overall deterioration of the economy, which affects the overwhelming majority of the population..(this) aggravated the problem of unemployment and pushed broad strata of the population under the poverty line. We regard these problems as a reflection of the parasitic mode of economy which still prevails. To alleviate the economic crisis, it is necessary to create substantial changes in the type of economy and adopt nationalist policies in all economic fields, including a review of the economic structure itself. Our approach, however, does not lessen the importance of following up on the people's everyday problems. This can be done through special and joint activity with other political forces, and through popular and professional bodies, particularly the trade unions.»

Concerning the relation between parliamentary and extraparliamentary work, Lu'a'y Dabbagh of the Unity Party said: «We are an opposition force. When we work on the political scene and in the parliament, we are representing the masses' demands, defending their rights and working to improve their opportunities on all levels. We also work directly among the masses to make them conscious of their rights and weight in the society. We work to build the instruments of social struggle – for women's, student and youth unions and local associations. Naturally, we express their work in our weekly magazine, *Nida Al Watan*. These types of work are in turn expressed in the political position of our deputy in the parliament. There is a dialectical connection between the two aspects.»

Unemployment was pinpointed by Tayseer Al Zabri as the main problem facing people in Jordan. About 200,000 people have returned to Jordan from the Gulf in 1991, adding to the

unemployment rate which had already surpassed 30%. He added, «Palestinians in Jordan are facing a complex reality: They are poor, facing unemployment, suffering from martial law – problems shared by all in Jordan – and also they suffer from being refugees. These are the main problems, and the way to resolve them is democracy which we consider the prerequisite for everything.»

Concerning how to work now that the progressive coalition joined the government, Al Zabri said: «Now that we are participating in the parliament and the government, this puts greater responsibility on us than before. As progressive parties, we must do our best to resolve the essential matters in Jordan's political life. At the same time, we tell our colleagues in the government that our programs must be given serious consideration. If we see that our programs cannot go forward, we'll come back and open a new kind of struggle against the government. The last government was lazy; it presented non-essential laws, but left out essential ones. Now the responsibility of the parliament is to press the government to give priority to formulating the new laws... We will enter this new stage. At the same time, we are not satisfied to participate in the cabinet and parliament only. These are fields for struggle... but we depend first of all on the masses of our people, their organizations, unions, etc., and the progressive parties and their unity. Secondly, we depend on the parliament and thirdly on the government.»

The mass movement

During the Gulf crisis, Jordan was the scene of intensive mass mobilization. Related to their reliance on the masses in pursuing democratization, the progressive forces need to have a clear evaluation of the mass movement in the post-war period.

Abdel Rahman Al Majali noted that the JCP does not find

«*Al Rai*» cartoon lampoons Kuwait's abuses

