

Condemn the Arafat-Mubarak Meeting!

Palestinian Response

Below are samples of the initial Palestinian response to Yasir Arafat's Dec. 22nd meeting with Husni Mubarak:

From Occupied Palestine

*Ahmad Shawki,
mayor of Jenin*

"We must adhere to the main objective, the liberation of our land and our legitimate rights in an independent state. Any action that contradicts this objective and violates the PNC's decisions is unacceptable... Our people, while affirming commitment to national unity and the legitimate institutions of the PLO, condemn Brother Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with Mubarak, since that contradicts the collective position of the Palestinian leadership and the point of view of our people inside and outside the occupied territories. We paid and are still paying the price of Camp David."

*Karim Khalaf,
elected mayor of Ramallah*

"...We are confident that the PLO Executive Committee, the other legitimate bodies and Fatah's leadership will shoulder the national responsibility of confronting this infamous violation."

*Hilmi Hanoun,
mayor of Tulkarem*

"Arafat's visit to Cairo was not a surprise. It seems that he prepared for it beforehand. Here, we gave our trust to the PLO institutions and legitimate leadership. Arafat committed a mistake by acting singlehandedly..."

*Ibrahim Tawil,
mayor of El Bireh*

"...The meeting with Mubarak contradicts the PNC decisions and damages the national cause. We are confident that the Palestinian leadership will cooperate to confront the resulting dangers, taking steps to guarantee the return of democratic life to the institutions of the PLO, while at the same time guaranteeing its unity."

*Haidar Abdel Shafi,
head of the Palestinian Red Crescent
in Gaza*

"It definitely brings sorrow and discontent for it departs from the PNC resolutions and the principled position of the PLO and the Palestinian people, which stresses non-cooperation with

any position or regime that doesn't correspond with the basic rights of our people..."

*Wahid Hamadallah,
mayor of Anabta*

"We don't support Arafat's visit to Cairo because it contradicts the PNC

