

STATEMENT OF ALL THE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN MAHATTA CENTRAL PRISON

To the national forces, organizations, personalities and trade unions in Jordan:

For thirteen days we have been waging a hunger strike in opposition to the authorities, which they proved unable to foil...

Some prominent members of parliament, authorized by the council of representatives, namely Yousef Al Athem, Laith Shbeilat, Daoud Suleiman, intervened directly by taking initiative to meet with us and the officials concerned, in order to find a solution to the problem; a permanent committee was formed to pursue the question of the political prisoners.

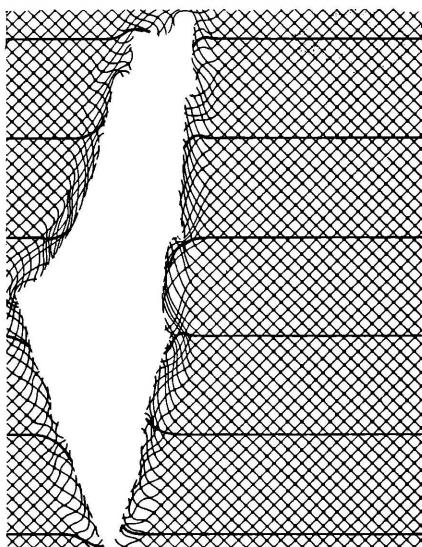
The following promises and guarantees from the officials concerned were submitted to us through these representatives:

1. Readiness to release the political detainees within a period that does not exceed the first half of April 1984.
2. Consent to free the political prisoners

from the occupied territories and enable them to return there.

3. Serious study of the cases of the sentenced political prisoners and reconsideration of their sentences.

The question of the political prisoners has now been totally and effectively presented on the political, informational and mass levels for the first time in Jordan.



dan, on all levels and within the different circles.

In view of the above, we have decided to end our hunger strike on Thursday afternoon, March 22, 1984.

While declaring this decision, we would like to emphasize our total adherence to all political demands presented in the document whereby we declared the strike on March 10, 1984; we emphasize our continuous readiness and firm commitment to struggle, so that these demands will be fulfilled, regardless of the sacrifices involved.

We have a high evaluation of the active role of all national forces, organizations, personalities and trade unions, in and outside Jordan, that supported our just cause, and of the mothers and relatives of the political prisoners who stood by us. At the same time, we urge these forces, organizations and personalities to continue the struggle so that this regime and its repressive methods against our people and militants will be exposed.

Signature / Political prisoners in
Mahatta Central Prison,
Amman - Friday, March 23, 1984



Defense Committee Appeal

Dear Sirs:

The Committees for the Defense of Democratic freedom in Jordan extend warm greetings. We would like to inform you of the latest developments in the hunger strike that has been waged by the political detainees in Mahatta Central Prison in Amman, since March 10, 1984.

First: On January 30, 1984, thirty-five detainees started a hunger strike to protest their unlawful detention. They demanded to be brought to trial, or immediately released. On February 5th, the strike was called off after the detainees received official promises that their demands would be fulfilled.

Second: After the failure of the Jordanian authorities to fulfill their promises, twenty-eight detainees declared a

new hunger strike for the same demands on March 10th.

Third: On March 15th, in solidarity with the strikers, thirty-five political detainees declared a hunger strike until the demands of their fellow detainees were fulfilled. They presented a memorandum to this effect to all the official departments concerned.

Fourth: After deterioration in the health condition of seventeen detainees due to the strike and to lack of medical care, the families of the political detainees presented letters to the prison administration and the related security authorities, demanding their intervention to save the lives of the detainees. The families' demands met with no response.

Fifth: Under the pressure of Jordanian public opinion and due to the

dangerous situation in the prison, a delegation from the ministry visited the prison. According to one member of the delegation, they were shocked by the critical situation of the detainees. Yet the visit had no results because decisions in such matters are not in the hands of the ministers, or even of the cabinet, but in the hands of the powerful intelligence apparatus in the country.

Dear sirs,

Due to the critical health condition of the political detainees, and to the Jordanian authorities' negligence and news black-out regarding their situation, we ask you to protest and intervene on their behalf. We urge you to demand the release of the political detainees in the country and an end to the repeated violation of the human rights of the Jordanians.