

demands to the administration. Delegations were formed to explain the demands to different faculty members, the Deans of Colleges, and the Heads of Departments.

The University Administration tried to play a trick, when the Vice-President, at one point, declared that the university would accept the return of those students whose AGPA is 2 points less than the minimum average. However, the students rejected this offer and threatened to continue their strike.

The demonstrations continued until February 11th, despite provocations by the police and security forces, who attempted to confiscate the I.D.cards of some students and stamp others. 50 names were put on a list at the university gate for this purpose, but these measures and others did not stop the movement.

On February 11th, while the students were meeting, university Vice-President, on behalf of the University Administration, declared the following compromises as a result of continuing demonstration and the students' insistence on their demands:

1. The return of all newly suspended students.
2. The return of formerly suspended students on the basis of lowering the required minimum by 5 points and giving them two semesters to raise their averages.

3. Promises to reconsider the curriculum in the next four months.

In light of these results, the students demanded that all confiscated I.D.cards be returned to their owners, that security or disciplinary measures not be taken against any student who participated in this action, that all faculty members who supported this action not be intimidated, and the students be given one extra week to complete the process of registration.

The demonstration then turned into a major celebration. Students chanted and sang, saluting their solidarity, which brought about this victory.

# *Sham Elections of the Monarchy's Parliament in Amman*

*In March, provincial elections were held to fill eight empty seats in the Jordanian parliament. The decision to hold these elections came after 17 years of a freeze on parliamentary life in Jordan, whereafter the authorities abolished the National Consultative Council created in the interim, and convened the suspended National Assembly as the legislative body for both the East Bank (Jordan) and West Bank (Palestinian) in January of this year. In conjunction with this, article 73 of the constitution was amended to enable elections in the East Bank and the appointment of deputies for the West Bank, to replace those who had died in the meantime. According to Jordanian law, the National Assembly consists of 60 members, 30 representing the East Bank, and 30 representing the West Bank. In the preparations for the elections, one thing did not change: the state of martial law prevailing in the country, whereby all political parties are banned.*

By the end of the nomination period, over 100 candidates were on the ballot for the eight contested seats. The candidates represented a broad spectrum of the political and social tendencies in Jordan. This includes the traditional base of the Hashemite monarchy in the city and villages, represented by candidates of the clans, as well as the big land owners, political feudalists, some bureaucrats and technocrats and liberal bourgeoisie. The religious tendency also fielded a large number of candidates, who were affiliated with organizations like the Muslim Brotherhood.

The nationalist and democratic forces were divided on the issue of participating in these elections. Some participated in spite of their reservations about the elections themselves and about the latest political manoeuvres of the Jordanian regime. They criticized the regime's reasons for reviving the old parliament, and demanded general elections in the East Bank and a freeze

on the representation of the West Bank, by amending the constitution and election law of 1960.

Other democratic and nationalist forces boycotted the elections on the basis that these are not free and democratic, and only provide a cover for the political direction of the Jordanian authorities. Among these latter forces, the PFLP's branch in Jordan issued a statement clarifying the objectives of the elections as follows:

1. This move on the part of the Jordanian regime is intended to serve its plans, using this as a necessary prelude for participating in the capitulationist settlement supervised by the US administration.
2. Since the amendment of article 73 gives the regime the freedom to appoint deputies for the West Bank, it contradicts the resolutions of the Rabat Summit of 1974, which recognized the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.