



Ghassan Kanafani's oil painting «Antar», the desert warrior from Arab mythology

Political Prisoners in Jordan Remember Ghassan

In spite of their conditions of imprisonment, the political prisoners in Jordan did not let the 12th anniversary of Ghassan Kanafani's martyrdom go unacknowledged. The prisoners are obviously in jail for the same principles that Ghassan lived and died for. They commemorated his death with the spirit he instilled in them. They live with the challenge of conquering their prison conditions just as Ghassan conquered death through his contribution that has remained for us.

The celebration was held on July 11th, in Al Mahatta prison, Amman. It was attended by the political prisoners and a group of their visitors. The program started with a moment of silence in memory of Ghassan and all the martyrs of the revolution. The event included speeches, poems and other literary readings. The main speech was delivered on behalf of the Palestinian revolution in which the prisoners affirmed their determination to continue their steadfastness and struggle against the plots of US imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction.

The prevailing spirit of the event can be summed up by a quote from one of the speeches delivered: «Had you, Ghassan, feared the trembling sea, you would not have stood on its shores; had you feared the fire of the revolution, you would not have been eaten by its flames; and had we feared the path of our struggle, we would not have been here (in jail). We salute the mighty fortress, the son of Acre who entrusted us with his blood to pass on to the coming generations. We will repeat his revolutionary words and follow his revolutionary path for which he dedicated his pen and spirit, and sacrificed his youth.»

Kanafani Commemorated in Palestine

The first annual book fair organized by the Latin Convent Club was successfully concluded in the club's headquarters in Beit Sahour, July 9. The book fair, the first one of its kind to be held in the city, was organized in memory of Palestinian author Ghassan Kanafani, who was assassinated in Beirut 12 years ago.

The book fair was held for four days during which hundreds of Palestinian residents from Beit Sahour and neighbouring villages visited and bought many of the exhibited books. The exhibition contained books dealing with politics, economics, philosophy and literature. The fair contained a number of books by Ghassan Kanafani.

In another related event, the Student Work Front at Bethlehem University issued a statement July 8, commemorating the twelfth anniversary of Kanafani's death. The statement recalled the achievements of the Palestinian author and his role in developing the Palestinian literary movement.

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Cover of «Al Hadaf» special issue in 1983, commemorating Ghassan Kanafani

