

democracy with the requirements of the regional situation and the struggle against the Zionist enemy:

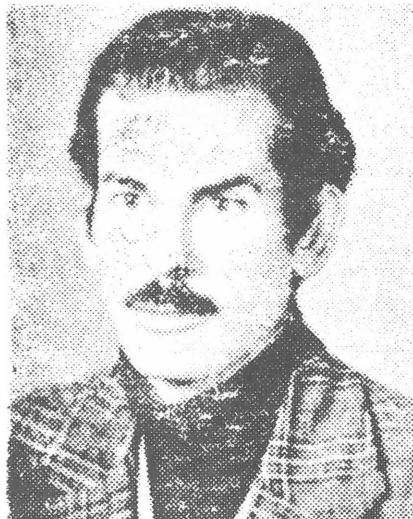
*Under the critical circumstances our homeland is experiencing owing to Israeli aggression and occupation, the total denial of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, the ongoing threat of Israeli aggression and expansion, and the attempts at imposing US-Israeli hegemony on all Arab countries, and particularly Jordan, we add our voice to those of our compatriots...We demand the declaration and maintenance, under the constitution, of man's inalienable rights, democratic liberties and the right of all citizens to employment, dignity, travel and movement, without the threat of passport seizure, and the proclamation of freedom of opinion and thought, together with the means of expression, such as the press and other mass media.*

*Like the various sectors of our society, we firmly believe that public and democratic liberties would promote our compatriots' self-confidence and release their vast potentials in confronting the Zionist threats and defending the homeland.*



*Imprisoned trade-union activist Abdul Razzaq Said. The Confederation of Trade Unions in Jordan asks all concerned organizations to demand his release.*

*Proceeding from this belief, our association's council has decided to submit this letter to your excellency, hoping that you will intervene for the release of our colleague, Abdul Munem Jeredat, who is employed in the technical division of our association and a member of the council of the electrical engineering section, who has been detained by the Intelligence Service since August 15th.*



Special concern has also been shown about the situation of two other detainees. At the same time, their cases exemplify the kind of persons considered «dangerous» by the regime:

- Trade union activist Abdul Razzaq Said, Secretary of the Trade Union for Secretarial, Banking, Insurance and Accountant Workers. He was arrested on April 10th, charged with playing an active role in the union.

- Mohammad Yousef Aoad is married and the father of four children. He was released from Ansar, Lebanon, by the Israelis on November 23, 1983, and then rearrested by the Jordanian Intelligence Service on February 12th of this year.

### **Waves on the political scene**

In October, the Jordanian Council of Deputies held a scheduled session.

Some Jordanian politicians took this occasion to submit a letter to the council's chairman and members, demanding review of the law banning political parties, as a preliminary step to the restoration of free political activity through legally formed parties.

Indeed the Council of Deputies session turned out to be a stormy one. The regime violated the laws and regulations, a fact which was denounced in the council. A number of deputies protested the restrictions put on the council's discussions and the disregard shown for the council's resolutions. They deplored the authorities' suppression of reports on the meetings where there was heated discussion on certain points as the council prepared its reply to the monarch's address. At the session there were attempts to restrict some deputies' right to speak, which led the deputy of Karak to submit his resignation in protest.

The Council refused to approve and postponed making a decision on a number of bills. Many deputies criticized the regime's impatience in having enacted certain bills although they did not satisfy the requirements of being «necessary or expedient».

The questions put by deputies placed the regime in an awkward position, highlighting its failures, such as failure to deal with the case of a number of Jordanians detained in Iraq since the beginning of the year. The waves created in the Council of Deputies takes on special significance when we know this is an appointed rather than elected body. As opposed to the parliament, which relates to the government (cabinet), the Council of Deputies is supposedly the link between the king and the people. Thus, the waves created in the council reflect the people's dissatisfaction with their ruler and his policy. Throughout the recent period, various groups of citizens have been petitioning the council deputies with their grievances - the arrest and detention of relatives, being barred from employment, or from passport renewal, etc. This generated a sort of pressure that erupted in the protests and questions posed by the deputies. ●

**Although «Democratic Jordan» is published in Arabic and therefore inaccessible to our English readers, the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms in Jordan will on occasion circulate material in English. If you are interested in receiving such information, on political prisoners, etc., you can write to the following address:**

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