

# Against the Persecution of Democrats

## IN KING HUSSEIN'S DUNGEONS

(*Letter from Amman*)

NEVER have the people of Jordan endured so much suffering as in the past few years. Since 1957 when King Hussein's clique, with the support of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, deposed the Nabulsi government which had done so much to strengthen the country's independence, a reign of terror has prevailed in the country. At the *diktat* of the British and American imperialists, Hussein and his police are perpetrating monstrous crimes against patriots and all who do not agree with his policy.

Immediately after the 1957 coup, some 16,000 people were thrown into concentration camps and prisons. Many progressive leaders were shot. Others are being tortured. Those who managed to escape the repressions were either forced to flee the country or are carrying on an underground struggle.

Thousands of people are subjected to fearful suffering in the Al-Jafre concentration camp, located in the south Jordanian desert. The prisoners in this camp, or "stone grave" as the prisoners call it, are being slowly starved to death. Sanitary conditions are indescribable. In the scorching heat the prisoners are given salt water to drink, which drives many of them mad.

It is impossible to give a complete list of all who have been shot or tortured to death in the dungeons and prison camps. This secret is jealously guarded by Sherif Nasser, the uncle and aide of King Hussein, along with his officers Mahmud al-Kailani and Salami al-Muhawish. But now and again the truth about the atrocities committed leaks through to the outside world.

The principal object of Hussein's hate are the Communists. The most savage treatment is meted out to them. Abdul Fattah Tulstan, 27-year-old school teacher from Amman, was one of the most recent victims of Hussein's "civilization."

The Amman authorities claim that their re-

pressive measures are instituted only against Communists, who, it is alleged, are plotting to overthrow the monarchy. Yet most of those persecuted have never had anything to do with the Communist Party.

Many high-ranking army officers, too, are in prison. The army has lost more than half of its officers as a result of Hussein's policy. Such well-known political leaders as Dr. Jacob Zayadin and Faiq Warrad, former members of Parliament, and Abdel Hak, Issa Mdanat, Talaat Harbe, members of the National Front, and other personalities have been arrested and tortured merely for wishing to see their country independent and prosperous.

Imperialist rule, restored after the removal of the Nabulsi government, has doomed our people to poverty and hunger. Even official U.S. spokesmen recognized that the economic situation in Jordan is catastrophic. Unemployment is rife, most of the population live in misery.

The so-called "aid" which King Hussein receives from the imperialist powers goes to maintain his vastly inflated armed forces and political police and for military construction. As the Jordan representative in the United Nations admitted, the secret police alone swallows up nearly five million pounds sterling annually, a fantastic sum for such a small country. How can there be any talk of economic progress in these circumstances!

Lawlessness, terror, imperialist domination and poverty—these are the things that are turning the people against Hussein and his clique. On 11 occasions since the overthrow of the Nabulsi government attempts have been made to get rid of the hated regime.

Our people want Jordan to be an independent state in the full sense of the word and not the bailiwick of Wall Street or the City. The terror can be explained only as evidence that the King and his government fear their own people.

Hardly a day passes without King Hussein

appealing to the imperialists, chiefly the Americans, to step up the struggle against the democratic forces all over the world. And the U.S. press and television gives full publicity to Hussein. But the United States, which has placed the axe in his hands, will hardly be able to

retain its control over Jordan. Our people got rid of British colonialism in 1956, and they will find the strength with which to extricate themselves from the clutches of the American imperialists and their stooges, the court camarilla headed by King Hussein. *F. IBRAHIM*