

Matar, Hamdi. Interviewed 2011. Translated by *The Palestinian Revolution*, 2016.

The gendarmerie treated us badly. We remained in al-Salt Prison for a while. Our morale was high and the national movement in Jordan was still strong. We were hoping the situation would improve. Dr Sobhi Ghousheh had an argument with a prison officer who was from al-Salt. Dr Sobhi told the officer "It won't last for you. Tomorrow you would in our place." The officer grabbed a shaving machine and the prison's warden himself shaved our hands. He shaved two lines across our heads, from front to back and from right to left. We looked really funny and instead of being angry we started laughing. The warden had us transferred to al-Mahatta prison and from there we were taken to court. The judge was Abdel Karim al-Barghouti. He was a Palestinian and close to the pan-Arab ideology. Nothing happened in the first session but before the second session King Hussein issued a statement supporting Arab Unity. The judge thought we were pan-Arabists, we didn't have internal rules of procedure, and none of us admit to anything. Because we called for Arab unity and King appeared to do the same he released us.

During this time Dr George Habash brought guys from Lebanon and Syria to to support the movement in Jordan after the main members of the movement were arrested. He brought in people we didn't know. Of those men I recall Adnan Faraj, Omar Fadel, and Thabet Mahayneh. They stayed in the country for a while and then Adnan Faraj and Omar Fadel were arrested while Thabet Mahayneh escaped to Syria. We were out of prison for less than a month when they arrested these two and around 30 other guys. Adnan Faraj was sentenced to 7 years and a half, Mustafa al-Zabri was sentenced to 5 years, Attah Shan was sentenced for 1 year, and Said Juma'a was sentenced for 1 year. Hamdi Mattar and Yahia Abu Sa'ad were sentenced for 1 year of house arrest. We had to go everyday at 8m and 2pm to the precinct to sign. This situation and the clandestine work continued. In early 1985 we published a leaflet called the People in Jordan Are Stronger. We published really useful information in the leaflet.

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