

## Death rather than humiliation

Many days have passed since we were arrested. Our moral is still touching the roof of the sky. Our hearts are still as tough as the rocks of our land. All this despite the grief we felt as a result of the enormous amount of deceit, deception and lying that the official media have imposed on the people's minds through the cheap humor plays transmitted on the government television screens, the allegations of the Prime Minister "Nsour" (who has surrendered himself to the robbers of the country), the lies published by "Al-Dustour" (the official newspaper in the prison), in addition to their primary focus on spreading feelings of terror and fear in order to stop public anger and ongoing peaceful demonstrations, as well as on the mentality of "either bread or security".

We are proud of having participated in the protest actions of teachers, port workers, day laborers, retired soldiers and others. The latest one was the Friday of public anger at Firas Circle. We have lived the experience of being detained in the Capital Security Department, and in Al-Zarqaa Prison. Thus, it is imperative we show the public opinion some facts that reveal much about the corrupt, oppressive and subordinate face of the authorities.

Firstly, we were arrested while raising posters - by ourselves, without anyone's contribution - on which we had written: "We only demand bread and social justice", "Return us our stolen resources: phosphate, potash and the port of Aqaba", "We won't go back home until getting prices reduction". All this in front of the media and the people. Thus, we were immediately arrested by the gendarmerie.

Secondly, the majority of the detainees was exposed, in temporary cells, to all kinds of torture, beatings and humiliation by visibly satisfied security agents. First they handcuffed us like criminals, then they obliged us to put our identity cards in our mouths and bite them!! They hit our faces and bodies with their feet and hands, insulted our families, threw our red keffiyehs on the cell floor then trampled on them. Moreover, they prevented all the detainees from eating, drinking and smoking for 24 hours, as well as from contacting our families, lawyers or the media for three consecutive days. To crown it all, we were transferred to prisons far from our families' place of residence and put, despite being peaceful prisoners of conscience, in prison dormitories which host criminal offenders such as drug dealers, murderers and thieves.

It is worth mentioning here that more than 80% of the detainees are citizens who did not participate in any protest action, as they were arrested on behalf of the government's fake "security parade". Considering all this, we can directly accuse the government of being responsible for all the acts of vandalism since it has persisted in ignoring any practical and realistic measure to meet the budget deficit (overwhelmed and looted by the corruption), while turning a blind eye on previous offenders who destroyed the country's institutions as the police were withdrawing from the scene at the beginning of the protests, in accordance to a predesigned script!!!

Thirdly, we were referred to the State Security Court, instead of a Civil Court. The (military) general attorney charged us with the following ridiculous and ironic accuses:

1. Acting to undermine the ruling regime.
2. Unauthorized assembly, thus violating the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution which guarantee freedom of expression and demonstration to all citizens.

Furthermore, we have not found any connection or relation between the charges - supposing they are legitimate - and the action (the crime) we performed by only raising two posters in front of the media and citizens in order to civilly express our opinion against the decision of raising fuel prices.

Considering all the above, we have decided to bring the resistance against the authorities

of corruption and lies into the prison through an open hunger and thirst strike. Such strike, started by Mahdi al Saafiin, will continue until the acceptance of our demands including our immediate and unconditional release, as well as the dropping of the charges against us. We set to end the strike only in two cases: either freedom or death. You will find us firm and determined as no one has ever been before.

Finally, we are not detention fans. We do belong to a movement that loves life, believes in justice and decent lives, and praises freedom of mind, opinion and belief. Moreover, we love our country and our people more than any advocate of blind patriotism or false care based on narrow interests. Nevertheless, this resistance - which had chosen us before we chose it - is an unfair resistance whose ultimate and only weapon consists in our bodies, to which we will deny a lot!!!

One day we went out to protest, chanting with all our hearts, all our spirits and all our beliefs a slogan whose meaning we do realize only in these days:

Death rather than humiliation

Long live our great Jordanian people, united and free against corruption and tyranny.

Mahdi Al Saafiin  
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