



Abu Jihad's funeral procession, Yarmouk camp

didn't realize that with this act, they are admitting their inability to confront the children fighting with stones... Despite murdering a number of leaders, the enemy will not be able to destroy the uprising. Our answer to this deplorable crime is continuing and escalating the uprising until accomplishing the aims of freedom and independence, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, led by the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of our people.»

While in Damascus for his father's funeral, Basel Al Wazir told reporters, «My father's martyrdom means a new beginning, a new start, readiness and will to fight for the freedom of Palestine... We will take revenge. There is fighting now (referring to the uprising) and we will always fight. We will never stop no matter what the price is.»

## Portrait of a Martyr

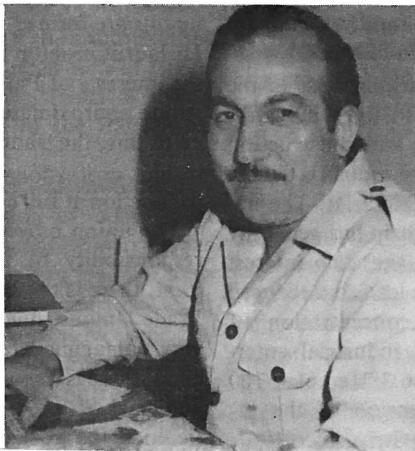
Abu Jihad was born in Ramleh, Palestine, on October 10, 1935. After the occupation of Palestine in 1948, his family was forced to emigrate to the Gaza Strip where he completed high school. While studying, he was leading some of the fedayeen cells then active against the Zionist enemy. The most prominent operation he carried out in his youth was the destruction of a water reservoir in the occupied parts of Gaza (Beit Hanoun), after which the Zionists raided the Gaza Strip on February 28, 1955.

In 1954, he was elected secretary of the Palestinian Student Union in Gaza. The next year he met Yasir Arafat who was visiting Gaza in his capacity as head of the Palestinian Student Union in Egypt. In the same year, Abu Jihad was arrested by the Egyptian authorities for his political and military activities. He was expelled from Egypt in 1957, whereafter he went to Saudi Arabia and later Kuwait.

Abu Jihad remained in Kuwait until 1963. During this period, he was involved in the formation of Fatah, along with Arafat, Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), Khaled Al Hassan and the martyr Abu Ali Iyad (martyred in the 1971 battles with the Jordanian regime at Jerash) and others.

In 1966, Abu Jihad, on behalf of Fatah, developed close relations with the Algerian National Liberation

### Khalil Al Wazir



Front. This resulted in the opening of Fatah's first office in Algiers, and military training camps as well. Abu Jihad was prominent in developing the Palestinian revolution's early contacts with several socialist countries. In 1966, Abu Jihad accompanied Arafat on a visit to China where they met Chairman Mao Tse Tung. Later, Abu Jihad visited the Democratic Republics of Vietnam and Korea.

After the beginning of the Palestinian armed struggle in 1965, Abu Jihad was based in Damascus. In his work, he stressed the importance of armed struggle in occupied Palestine. After the Israeli occupation of the rest of Palestine in 1967, he was put in charge

of military operations against the Zionist enemy launched from Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. During the September 1970 massacres against the Palestinian people in Jordan, Abu Jihad participated in defending the revolution against the Jordanian regime's forces.

In June 1970, at Fatah's national congress in Damascus, Abu Jihad was elected to Fatah's Central Committee and deputy commander of Al Assifa (Fatah's armed forces). In this capacity, he played a very prominent role in the Palestinian armed revolution. He was directly involved in escalating armed struggle in Palestine. He played an important role in the heroic defense of Beirut during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Abu Jihad was deeply involved in the unification talks that took place between the main Palestinian organizations prior to the unification session of the PNC in Algiers in April 1987. After this, he was very active in the PLO's committee for the affairs of the occupied homeland. As head of this committee, he played an important role in supporting and directing the current uprising until his martyrdom. Abu Jihad was married to Intisar Al Wazir, who has headed the PLO department for the injured, the martyrs and the prisoners, since 1962. They had four children.