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03 April 2006

JOR101125.E

Jordan: The "Arab National Movement" and treatment of its members by authorities (January 1999 - March 2006)
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

Information on the Arab National Movement (ANM) in Jordan was scarce among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

The ANM is described as a Marxist political party (*Political Handbook of the Middle East 2006* 2006, 238) founded in Beirut in 1948 following the founding of the State of Israel (HRW Oct. 2002; CDI 23 Oct. 2002). The ANM was founded (IPS n.d.) and led by George Habash who went on to create the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PLFP) (ibid.; HRW Oct. 2002).

According to the Center for Defense Information (CDI), a part of the World Security Institute (WSI), which is a research institute supported by public charity and based in Washington, DC (CDI n.d.), the ANM "spread quickly throughout the Arab World" (ibid. 23 Oct. 2002). The CDI added that the ANM was allied with Egypt's Gamal Abdul-Nasser, with whom it shared views on "a unified, free and socialist Arab world with an autonomous Palestine" (ibid.). The *Political Handbook of the Middle East 2006* stated that in a 1989 Jordanian poll, the ANM was one of several political parties supporting independent political candidates (2006, 238).

The most recent media report on the ANM found by the Research Directorate was from the 29 August 1999 issue of the Jerusalem-based *Al-Quds* newspaper, which reported that members of the ANM were part of a subcommittee to the Jordanian Opposition Parties' Coordinating Committee, made up of the 14 Jordanian opposition parties. *Al-Quds* said that there was a worry that the bloc of 14 opposition parties could fracture because of deep divisions between parties (29 Aug. 1999). However, further information on the ANM's relations with other Jordanian political parties could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

No mention of the ANM was found in lists of current political parties in Jordan published in *The Europa World Year Book 2005* and in the *Political Handbook of the World: 2005-2006* (*Europa* 2005,2443-2444; *Political Handbook of the World* 2005, 604-606)

In 9 March 2006 correspondence with the Research Directorate, a professor of political science from McGill University, who specializes in Jordanian politics, provided the information that follows. While he stated that the ANM was a "region-wide leftist party in the 1950s and 1960s," he did not know whether the party was still in operation in Jordan. The professor suspected that "any party members would have been treated with suspicion/harassment by the authorities, but aren't likely to have faced major repression since the mid 1980s." This information could not be corroborated by the Research Directorate within time constraints.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Al-Quds [Jerusalem, in Arabic]. 29 August 1999. "Opposition Split on Inter-Palestinian Dialogue." (Factiva/BBC Monitoring)

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Human Rights Watch (HRW). October 2002. "Structures and Strategies of the Perpetrator Organizations." *Erased in a Moment: Suicide Bombing Attacks Against Israeli Citizens*. <<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2002/isrl-pa/ISRAELPA1002-05.htm>> [Accessed 29 Mar. 2006]

Institute for Palestine Studies (IPS). N.d.. "Books: *The Palestinian Struggle in Practice: An Interview with George Habash*. Abstract" <<http://palestine-studies.org/final/en/books/item.php?id=106>> [Accessed 29 Mar. 2006]

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Political Handbook of the World: 2005-2006. 2005. Edited by Arthur S. Banks, Thomas C. Muller and William R. Overstreet. "Jordan." Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Professor of political science specializing in Jordanian politics. 9 March 2006. Correspondence.

Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: Three professors specializing in Jordanian politics did not respond to requests for information within time constraints.

Publications: *Political Handbook of the World: 2005-2006*, *Political Parties of the World (2005)*.

Internet Sites, including: Amnesty International (AI), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), *The Economist* [London], European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI), Freedom House, *Gulf News* [Dubai], Human Rights Watch (HRW), Institute for Palestinian Studies, *Jordan Times* [Amman], *Middle East Times* [Nicosia], United States Department of State.

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