Nayef Hawatmeh

July 14, 2007

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A senior Palestinian official announced that Israel had agreed to allow one of the leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Secretary-General of the Democratic Front, Nayef Hawatmeh, to enter Ramallah in the West Bank to participate in the Central Council meeting next Wednesday.

Hawatmeh was born in Salt, Jordan, in 1938.

He belongs to the Arab Christian tribe of Al-Hawatmeh, of Bedouin origins, which follows the Greek Orthodox Church.

Hawatmeh represents a strange situation in Jordanian and Palestinian political life, as he is - a Jordanian Christian by birth and origin, but he heads the Palestinian Liberation Front.

He belonged to the movement of Arab nationalists, which arose as a direct reaction to the defeat of the Arabs and the catastrophe of Palestine, and he led nationalist groups in Jordan and the West Bank, and his age did not exceed sixteen years.

After extensive partisan work in Jordan, the West Bank and Lebanon, he moved to Baghdad - after the revolution of July 14, 1958, within the framework of the national movement, and there he assumed full responsibility for the conditions of the Arab nationalist movement in Iraq.

The arrest of Hawatmeh was the first in the struggle of the nationalists against the Iraqi - leader at the time, Abd al-Karim Qasim, and in his prison he was adjacent to a number of personalities who played a later role in the life of Iraq, such as Abd al-Salam Aref, Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Salih Mahdi Ammash, Ali Salih al-Saadi, Abd al-Karim Farhan, Subhi Abdel Hamid, Abdulaziz al-Aqili, Abdul Hadi al-Rawi, Taher Yahya and many other prominent military and political leaders who have played important roles in the life of Iraq since the July 1958 revolution.

After the first Baath coup in alliance with Abd al-Salam Aref, Hawatmeh got out of prison - and issued the newspaper "Al-Wahda" in Baghdad, which lived for about 27 days, then was closed by the Ba'ath regime in Iraq.

Because of what was issued by Al-Wahda newspaper and the movement of Arab - nationalists in Iraq, whose leader he was, the second arrest came during the era of Aref's coalition with the Baath, and then deportation to Egypt and from there to Lebanon.

Hawatmeh studied philosophy and psychology at Beirut University.

Obtained a doctorate from Moscow by affiliation on transformations within the ranks of the - national movement, from a general national movement to a leftist movement.

He is considered one of the opponents of the Oslo Accords -.

He surprised the observers in 1999, during King Hussein's funeral, by shaking hands with - then-president of Israel, Ezra Weizmann.

Two death sentences were issued against him, the first in Jordan in 1958, and the second in Iraq in 1963.

He holds the position of Secretary-General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which he founded on February 22, 1969, after his defection from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

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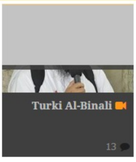
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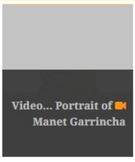
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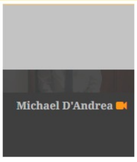
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