

Israel orders

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Palestine mayor home from U.S.

A MAYOR and political leader from the occupied West Bank said yesterday his planned 50-day tour of the U.S. has been cut short by an order from the Israeli military government to return home immediately.

"I do not know the reason but I am leaving tomorrow," Karim Khalaf, Mayor the West Bank city of Ramallah, said at a news conference which had been called for comment on the Camp David agreement on the Mid-east.

Khalaf, who has often served as a spokesman for the Palestinian mayors of cities in the occupied West Bank, arrived in the U.S. five days ago on a speaking tour sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee and the Washington-based Palestine Human Rights Campaign.

He said he received a telephone call on Tuesday from a deputy, "informing me that I must return at once." Asked "how" the order might be an attempt by the Israelis to silence his criticism of the Camp David pact, Khalaf said he did not know.

But an associate said that by defying the order, Khalaf would face cancellation of his visa and the loss of any future rights to travel outside the Israeli-occupied area.

Dr James Zogby, a representative of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign, who appeared with Khalaf, said the return home order was "nothing new."

Detention

He said other prominent Palestinians living on the West Bank had been subjected to Israeli travel restrictions in the past, and claimed that in recent days, there has been "an intensification of harassment of other Arab political leaders in the occupied area, including "preventive detention" — arrests without formal charges.

Speaking on the result of the summit, Khalaf said it was "a triumph for Israel and a dire defeat for the Palestinians and the Arab cause," writes

Mark Bruzonsky.

"The Palestinians living in our homeland, under the occupation of Israel's military rule, criticise in the strongest terms the two documents that have been initialled by Sadat and Begin at the behest of Carter," Khalaf said. "We will struggle to defeat the Camp David agreement," he warned.

It is a "big disappointment — maybe the disappointment of the century," he noted. "The 13 days that were spent at Camp David culminated in the realisation of a Zionist dream," he stated, "and that could not have been achieved without a sellout of the Palestinian cause, and possibly even of the Arab cause itself, by Anwar Sadat."

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Khalaf labelled Sadat an "imposter" and appealed "to all who love peace not to be deceived by these two documents that have given the Zionists all that they want and deprived the Palestinian people of their basic rights."

In his prepared statement, Khalaf stressed that "The Camp David agreements left the main issue unresolved — the future of the Palestinians and the participation of the PLO." —AP