

# In Jordan, Uneasy Lies the Head

by Hugh Fitzgerald



**King Abdullah of Jordan** recently accused his half-brother Hamzah bin Hussein of plotting a coup against him, and had him placed under house arrest in Amman. A few days later, and the Palace announced that, in fact, there had been no coup attempt. Prince Hamzah's real crime seems to have been his open criticism of the regime for corruption and incompetence, and for meeting recently with tribal leaders, a meeting which, in the heated imaginations of Jordanian authorities, suggested he was planning a coup, even though the Prince has no known support in Jordan's military. The King and his half-brother have now made up. The Prince has signed a letter in which he pledged his loyalty to the King. The crisis has passed. But

damage has been done to the country's image. It seemed to the outside world that Jordan, formerly thought of as a pillar of stability, was not immune to the palace intrigues other Arab monarchies – such as Saudi Arabia – have endured..

A report that considers the possible future of Jordan, and what it means for Israel, is here: “Jordan's instability and the ‘Palestine’ states,” by Daniel Tauber, [Jihad Watch](#).