

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 15/112/2002

UA 213/02 Fear of torture/legal concern/

15 July 2002

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ISRAEL/  
OCCUPIED Yusef Mahmud Tawriq (m) aged 32  
TERRITORIES

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Yusef Mahmud Tawriq, a fieldworker in the Nablus area for the Palestinian human rights organization *al-Haq*, was arrested following a visit to the organization's offices in Ramallah on 14 July. His current whereabouts are unknown and he may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

According to one of Yusef Mahmud Tawriq's relatives, who was with him when he was arrested, Yusef was returning home to Nablus when the taxi in which he was travelling was stopped at the Duma checkpoint. The checkpoint is located near the village of Duma between Ramallah and Nablus. The soldiers at the checkpoint gathered the ID cards of all of the passengers in the taxi for inspection. After several minutes they demanded that Yusef Mahmud Tawriq step outside the car. When he did so, his hands were tied and he was placed in a military jeep. The taxi was then allowed to continue on its journey.

If Yusef Mahmud Tawriq has been detained because of his work as a human rights activist, Amnesty International would consider him a prisoner of conscience.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Over 5000 Palestinians are currently being held in detention by Israel. Almost 1000 of them are being held under administrative detention orders that allow the authorities to hold them for up to six months without charge or trial. Conditions in the Israeli detention centres in the West Bank fall far below acceptable international prison standards, and reports of beatings and abuse of prisoners by Israeli soldiers are common.

Under Israeli military law detainees do not need to be informed of the reason for their detention, and under a new military order they can be held without being given access to any judicial authority for 18 days.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Hebrew or your own language:**

- urging the Israeli authorities to release Yusef Mahmud Tawriq immediately and unconditionally, as he appears to be a prisoner of conscience;
- expressing concern at reports that other Palestinian detainees have been tortured or ill-treated during interrogation;
- asking that Yusef Mahmud Tawriq be treated humanely according to international human rights treaties, such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which Israel has ratified prohibiting torture or other ill-treatment;
- expressing concern that Yusef Mahmud Tawriq is being held incommunicado, and reminding the Israeli authorities that while he is in custody, Yusef Mahmud Tawriq has the right of access to his lawyer and his family.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon  
Office of the Prime Minister  
3 Kaplan Street, PO Box 187  
Kiryat Ben-Gurion

Jerusalem 91919, Israel  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel**  
**Fax: + 972 2 670 5475**  
**E-mail: pm\_heb@pmo.gov.il**  
**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

Meir Shetrit  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
29 Salah al-Din Street  
Jerusalem 91010, Israel  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Jerusalem, Israel**  
**Fax: + 972 2 628 8618**  
**E-mail: sar@justice.gov.il**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister of Justice**

Uzi Landau  
Minister of Public Security  
Ministry of Public Security (Police)  
Kiryat Hamemshala  
PO Box 18182  
Jerusalem 91181, Israel  
**Telegrams: Public Security Minister, Jerusalem, Israel**  
**Fax: + 972 2 584 7872**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister of Public Security**

Elyakim Rubinstein  
Attorney-General  
Ministry of Justice  
29 Salah al-Din Street  
Jerusalem 91010, Israel  
**Telegrams: Attorney-General, Jerusalem, Israel**  
**Fax: + 972 2 628 5438**  
**Salutation: Dear Attorney-General**

**COPIES TO:**

al-Haq  
P.O. Box 1413,  
Ramallah, West Bank  
Palestinian Authority  
**Fax: + 972 2 295 4903**  
**E-mail: haq@alhaq.org**

and to diplomatic representatives of Israel/Occupied Territories accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 August 2002.