

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/08/98

5 February 1998

Further information on EXTRA 04/98 (MDE 15/03/98, 9 January 1998) and follow-up (MDE 15/04/98, 12 January 1998) - Torture / Fear of torture

ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES' Abd al-Rahman Isma'il Ghanimat

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'Abd al-Rahman Isma'il Ghanimat remains in detention at Shikma Prison, Ashkelon, Israel but is no longer under interrogation by the General Security Service (GSS). Fears that he may be subjected to further torture have therefore subsided.

On 28 January 1998, 'Abd al-Rahman Ghanimat's appeal against the military court's decision, on 8 January, to extend his detention for a further period of 30 days was heard at the Military Appeals Court. However, 'Abd al-Rahman Ghanimat was prevented from attending this hearing at the order of the GSS.

An application to the judge by his lawyer for this decision to be overturned was refused and no explanation provided to her concerning the reasons. Amnesty International is concerned by the failure of the Military Appeals Court to ensure that 'Abd al-Rahman Ghanimat attended his appeal hearing. The presentation of a detainee before a judge is an important safeguard against the use of torture and ill-treatment.

However, no further action by the UA Network is requested at this time. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.