

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/13/97

13 March 1997

Further information on UA 205/96 (MDE 15/57/96, 15 August 1996) - Fear of torture / Legal concern

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY **Sergeant Muhammad Rif'at, aged 23**
Major Ibrahim Farid Shukairi

Amnesty International has received confirmation that both Sergeant Muhammad Rif'at and Major Ibrahim Farid Shukairi have been released.

Both men were held incommunicado after their arrests in July 1996. They were initially said to be held in Ramallah, and then later to be in the custody of Force 17 in Gaza. On 18 September Major Shukairi was reported to have been moved to Shifa' Hospital in Gaza with a broken leg after jumping out of the second story of the Force 17 detention complex. Throughout this time, the authorities failed to reply to Amnesty International's repeated appeals about the men's prolonged incommunicado detention.

The two were released at the beginning of Ramadan in January 1997, but they were reported to have been placed under virtual house arrest and they expected to be returned to detention after Ramadan ended in mid-February. However their release has now been confirmed as unconditional and both have returned to their jobs on the staff of Major-General Nasr Yusef, Head of the Police and Security.

Major Shukairi is said to be still walking with a stick due to his injury mentioned above.

No further action by the UA Network is requested. Sergeant Muhammad Rif'at and Major Ibrahim Farid Shukairi know about the UA on their behalf and are very grateful for the appeals sent by the UA Network.