

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/25/96

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 25 per section.

UA 96/96

Torture / Legal concern

4 April 1996

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY Adib Muhammad Ziadeh, aged 25, student at Bir Zeit University studying for Masters in International Studies

Reports that Adib Ziadeh, arrested without warrant in Ramallah on 8 March 1996, has been tortured in security force custody, have heightened fears that he remains at risk of torture and ill-treatment as his interrogation continues.

Following his arrest by Palestinian Authority (PA) security forces (*mukhabarat*), Adib Ziadeh was reportedly taken to the intelligence section of Jericho Prison for interrogation. On 1 April, Adib Ziadeh's family was finally permitted to visit him in the PA's Jericho District Headquarters. During the visit (the only one the family have so far been permitted), Adib Ziadeh described how he had been beaten with a stick, a whip, and hit and kicked by his interrogators. The family reported that they had seen deep bruising on his body, face and neck. Adib Ziadeh also said that he had been held in a small room for prolonged periods and had been prevented from sleeping.

According to information received by Amnesty International, Adib Ziadeh was admitted to hospital twice during his interrogation: on the first occasion, after he fainted, he was admitted to Jericho hospital for 5 to 6 hours, when he said he was given glucose intravenously, and oxygen; the second time, following a severe beating with a stick and whip, he again lost consciousness, and was admitted to hospital. He was later taken back into interrogation.

During the family visit, a PA official reportedly stated that no restrictions or law applied to this interrogation and that the *mukhabarat* had full authority over the interrogation. Bir Zeit University's Human Rights Action Project lawyer has been trying to gain access to Adib Ziadeh, and other Bir Zeit University students detained in Jericho, without success. Adib Ziadeh has not been charged and attempts by his family and lawyer to obtain information concerning his detention and interrogation from the PA have failed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Arrests of at least 900 people have taken place in the PA areas since suicide bombings killing over 60 people, including the bombers, took place in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in February and March. Under pressure from the international community and from Israel to arrest those connected with the bombings, the PA has reacted with arbitrary arrests, denying access to lawyers, families and doctors. Such treatment blatantly contravenes international standards for human rights which President Yasser Arafat previously claimed the PA would adhere to.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Arabic/English or your own language:

- calling for an immediate end to the torture and ill-treatment of Adib Muhammad Ziadeh;
- calling for him to have immediate access to his lawyer, to a doctor of his own choice, and to his family;

- calling for his immediate release if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and tried promptly before a court which meets international standards for fair trial;
- expressing your disappointment in the lack of respect shown for human rights in the Palestinian Authority and stating that report of torture and ill-treatment should be investigated and the procedure and results made public;
- asking for a reply.

APPEALS TO:

1. President Yasser Arafat
Palestinian Authority
Al-Muntada

Gaza, Palestinian Authority

Faxes: +972 7 822 365 (ask to send a fax)

Telegrams: President Arafat, Gaza, Palestinian Authority

Salutation: Dear President Arafat

2. Sa'eb Erekat
Minister of local government
Ministry of local government affairs
Jericho

Palestinian Authority

Faxes: +972 2 992 1240

Telegrams: Minister Local Government, Jericho, Palestinian Authority

Salutation: Dear Mr Erekat

3. Khaled al-Qidrah
Attorney-General
Attorney-General Building
Yarmouk, Gaza,
Palestinian Authority

Faxes: +972 7 822 388

Telegrams: Attorney-General, Gaza, Palestinian Authority

Salutation: Dear Mr al-Qidrah

4. Tawfiq al-Tarawi
Head of Security (Mukhabarat)
Jericho

Palestinian Authority

Telegrams: Tawfiq al-Tarawi, Mukhabarat, Jericho, Palestinian Authority

Salutation: Dear Mr al-Tarawi

COPIES TO:

Dr Iyad al-Sarraj
Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
Ritz Hotel
Ibn Khaldun Street
PO Box 54627

Jerusalem, Via Israel

Faxes: +972 2 28 28 69

and to diplomatic representatives of Palestinian Authority accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 May 1996.