

PUBLIC

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Medical concern / Detention without charge 17 March 2003

ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES Anan Nabih Labadeh, (m) aged 30

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the health of Anan Nabih Labadeh, who was arrested with his brother, Dr 'Abd al-Fatah Labadeh, by the Israeli army on 11 March 2003. Anan Nabih Labadeh is paralysed from the waist down and suffers from gastritis, bladder and skin problems, and is in constant need of medical care. Dr 'Abd al-Fatah Labadeh was released after two days, but Anan Nabih Labadeh remains in detention.

Both brothers were at home in Nablus when Israeli soldiers entered the house at 3am on 11 March and began ransacking it, apparently searching for a wanted person whom they did not find. After a few hours, both brothers were pushed into an army jeep; Anan Nabih Labadeh was still in his wheelchair. The soldiers blindfolded them and tied their hands behind their backs. The soldiers reportedly beat Anan Nabih Labadeh. Dr 'Abd al-Fatah Labadeh stated after his release: "I could hear him crying out in pain after every hit – and I could see the shadows of him being beaten through my blindfold – they were hitting him all over, especially on his legs and back."

The brothers were taken to Huwara military camp near Nablus. They were made to wait four hours, still blindfolded and handcuffed. They were then separated. After two days, Dr 'Abd al-Fatah Labadeh was released without seeing his brother again. No reasons were given for either his arrest or release. Anan Nabih Labadeh remains in detention.

Dr Labadeh has described the detention conditions in Huwara: "There are about nine cells in the prison. The one I was placed in measured approximately 3m by 3m, had no lights, no toilet and contained 6 other men. We had small, thin mattresses which were wet as the cell was very damp. There was no heating, and the cell was very closed. There were insufficient blankets to keep us all warm. The only form of daylight was through a window which measured no more than 50cm by 50cm. Whilst I was there, we were taken out of the cell 3 times, for about 10-15 minutes each. We were forced to urinate into bottles as there was no toilet, and the only source of water was a small bottle, which was filled at meal times... The sanitary conditions were very poor. We were unable to clean the room, there were no drinking glasses and no water to wash with. Most of the men had stomach problems such as constipation, stomach cramps and stomach acid."

Dr Labadeh is extremely concerned about the health of his brother if he continues to be held in these conditions. Anan Nabih Labadeh needs different types of specific medication. According to information received, Anan Nabih Labadeh's wheelchair was taken away from him three days ago and he has been lying down since. When he needs to go to the toilet, other detainees have to help him. There is a risk of bed sores and infections.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Anan Nabih Labadeh has never been arrested before. He was injured in 1987, during the first *intifada*, when he and a group of boys were fleeing Israeli soldiers. The boys were attempting to jump from the roof of one building to another. Anan fell down and sustained a spinal injury. His brother lives with him to provide care, as he is confined to a wheelchair and needs assistance for many everyday activities. Anan Nabih Labadeh has represented the Palestinian National Disabled Teams in table-tennis and basketball.

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

- expressing concern for Anan Nabih Labadeh's health and safety;
- urging the Israeli authorities to immediately provide suitable and adequate medical care and treatment to Anan Nabih Labadeh;
- urging the authorities to immediately release Anan Nabih Labadeh unless he is to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence and tried in a proper court of law in accordance with international accepted standards for fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street, P O Box 187
Jerusalem 91919, Israel

Fax: +972 2 6705475

Telex: 25279 MPRES IL

E-mail: roh@pmo.gov.il

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Yosef Lapid, Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010, Israel

Fax: +972 2 6285438

E-mail: sar@justice.gov.il

Salutation: Dear Minister

Elyakim Rubinstein, Attorney-General/Legal
Advisor to the Government
Ministry of Justice
9 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010, Israel

Fax: +972 2 6285438

Salutation: Dear Attorney-General

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 28 April 2003.