

**EXTERNAL**

**AI Index: MDE 15/57/96**

**UA 205/96**

**Fear of torture / Legal concern**

**15 August 1996**

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

---

Sergeant Muhammad Rif'at has not been heard of since he was arrested on 1 July 1996. Major Ibrahim Farid Shukairi was arrested on 7 July and has apparently been held in incommunicado detention ever since. Amnesty International is concerned that the two men have been held without access to their family, apparently without charge or trial, and may be in danger of torture. Information received by the organization suggests that Major Farid may have already suffered torture and was allegedly not fed for 48 hours during the first week after his arrest.

Both men were on the staff of Major-General Nasr Yusef, Head of the Police and Security. No reason is known for their arrest and detention. The arrests were said to have been carried out by a unit of the Palestine Preventive Security (PPS, *amn al-wiqa'i*). Numerous requests for information, including requests by Amnesty International delegates in Gaza, have failed to elicit any official information as to the whereabouts of the two men. At one time they were said to be detained in Ramallah. Now they are said to be held in Gaza by Force 17.

Sergeant Muhammad Rif'at's wife is pregnant. Major Farid has two wives, one of whom is pregnant.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Hundreds of people have been arrested and detained in the Palestinian Authority (PA) without arrest warrants, charge or trial. The detainees are frequently held for long periods in incommunicado detention and many have been tortured. At least nine separate security services operate in the PA, many of them with their own detention centres which are often kept secret. At least seven detainees have died in custody apparently as a result of torture since July 1994.

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

- calling for the whereabouts of Sergeant Muhammad Rif'at and Major Ibrahim Farid Shukairi to be made known and for them to be given immediate access to their family, lawyers and doctors;
- expressing concern at reports that Major Farid has been tortured, and seeking assurances that both men are now being treated humanely in accordance with international standards;
- asking whether charges have been brought against the two detainees and calling for their immediate release if they are not promptly charged with recognizably criminal offences and tried in a court which meets international standards for fair trial.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Yasser Arafat  
President of the Palestinian Authority  
Al-Muntada, Gaza, Palestinian Authority  
**Telegrams: President Arafat, Gaza, via Israel**  
**Faxes: +972 7 823 744**

**Salutation: Dear President Arafat**

Khaled al-Qidreh  
Attorney General  
Attorney General Building  
Yarmouk, Gaza, Palestinian Authority  
**Telegrams: Attorney General, Palestinian Authority, Gaza via Israel**  
**Faxes: +972 7 824 503**  
**Salutation: Dear Attorney General**

Minister of Justice Mr Freih Abu Meddein  
Ministry of Justice  
Abu Khadra Building  
Omar al-Mukhtar Street  
Gaza, Palestinian Authority  
**Faxes: +972 7 822 236**  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Palestinian Authority, Gaza**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

The Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights  
P.O. Box 54627  
Jerusalem  
via Israel  
**Faxes: +972 2 282 869**

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

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 September 1996.