

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 21/011/2002

8 August 2002

Further information on UA 207/02 (MDE 21/010/2002, 8 July 2002) - Fear of torture/legal concern/ possible prisoner of conscience New concern: fear of death penalty

PALESTINIAN Khaidar Ghanem (m), aged 39, human rights defender
AUTHORITY

Khaidar Ghanem has admitted to collaborating with the Israeli intelligence services since 1996, including during the past ten months when he was a field worker for B'Tselem, an Israeli human rights organization. He gave this admission at a press conference in Gaza and during a meeting with a lawyer and a board member of B'Tselem.

He also stated that he had not been tortured or ill-treated by the interrogators of the Palestinian Preventative Security Forces, who have detained him since the beginning of July.

Many of those accused of "collaboration" by the Palestinian Authority (PA) have been held without charge or trial for up to seven years. Others have been sentenced to death by the Palestinian State Security Court in grossly unfair trials which violate the fundamental principles of due process. Some "collaborators" have been killed by armed Palestinians.

Amnesty International is concerned that Khaidar Ghanem may face an unfair trial before the Palestinian State Security Court, and may be served with a death sentence.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in English, Arabic or your own language:

- reminding the Palestinian Authority (PA) of its duty to ensure respect for the rights to a fair trial of any detainee;
- urging the PA not to pass a death sentence on Khaidar Ghanem;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation one of the most fundamental human rights - the right to life, and calling for the death penalty to be abolished.

APPEALS TO:

President Yasser Arafat
The President's Office, Gaza,
Palestinian Authority

Telegrams: President Arafat, Gaza, Palestinian Authority

Fax: + 972 8 2 822 159

Salutation: Dear President Arafat

Freih Abu Middein
Minister of Justice
P O Box 1021
Gaza

Palestinian Authority

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Gaza, Palestinian Authority

Fax: + 972 8 286 7109 (it may be difficult to get through, but please keep trying)

Salutation: Dear Minister

Abd el Razik Yihya

Minister of the Interior

Palestinian Authority

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Gaza, Palestinian Authority

Fax: + 972 2 240 0668

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

B'Tselem

The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories

8 Hata'asiya St.

Jerusalem 93420

Israel

Fax: + 972 2 6749111

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 19 September 2002.