

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 21/24/98

25 November 1998

Further information on UA 266/98 (MDE 21/23/98, 12 October 1998) - Fear of Torture or ill-treatment / Possible prisoner of conscience / Legal Concern

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY Jamal al-Tawil, human rights activist

Nearly two months after his arrest, Jamal al-Tawil is still being held at a Palestinian General Intelligence detention centre (*mukhabarat*) in Jericho.

Over a period of around three weeks, Jamal al-Tawil was apparently tortured on a daily basis, including being hung from the ceiling for hours at a time and kept in incommunicado detention. The Palestinian authorities are accusing him of being a leader of *Hamas* (an Islamist group opposed to the peace process) which he is denying, saying that he works on behalf of Palestinian prisoners.

It is not known if he will be further interrogated. His wife and parents are now able to visit him regularly and bring him food and have told Amnesty International that he is in relatively good health.

Palestinian human rights organizations, including attorneys from the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, (LAW), have tried unsuccessfully on several occasions to gain access to Jamal al-Tawil.

On 2 November 1998, LAW appealed to the Palestinian High Court for a writ of habeas corpus. This would require the court to examine the lawfulness of his detention. Jamal al-Tawil, who was arrested without a warrant, has still not been given access to a lawyer, brought before a judge or formally charged with any offence.

Network members may send further letters of appeal by fax, express or airmail in Arabic or English or in their own language:

- asking the authorities to carry out an immediate investigation into reports that Jamal al-Tawil was tortured during interrogation and for any officer found to have used or ordered torture to be brought to justice;
- requesting that he be granted immediate and regular access to his lawyer;
- asking for his release unless he is promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought to fair trial;
- reminding the Palestinian Authority of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 5: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

APPEALS TO:

President Yasser Arafat

Palestinian Authority

Al-Muntada

Gaza

Palestinian Authority

Faxes: + 972 7 282 2365 (when voice answers, please request fax tone)

Salutation: Dear President Arafat

Mr Freih Abu Meddein

Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice

Abu Khadra Building

2

Omar al-Mukhtar Street
Gaza
Palestinian Authority
Faxes: + 972 7 286 7109
Salutation: Dear Minister

Brigadier General Tawfiq al-Tirawi
Head of General Intelligence in the West Bank
Jericho
Palestinian Authority
Faxes: + 972 2 232 1283
Salutation: Dear Brigadier General al-Tirawi

COPIES TO:

The Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment
(LAW)
PO Box 20873
Jerusalem, via Israel

and to representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization accredited
to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 6 January 1998.

***"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading
treatment or punishment"***

Article 5 , Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>