

# URGENT ACTION

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER ALLEGES TORTURE

**An Israeli military court extended the period of interrogation of Palestinian human rights defender Hassan Karajah until 26 February 2013. He has been held since 24 January without charge and has reported being subjected to torture and other ill-treatment to his lawyer.**

An Israeli military court in Salem military base, northern occupied West Bank, has extended the interrogation period of **Hassan Karajah** (29) until 26 February 2013. His ban on access to a lawyer was lifted on 11 February by the Israeli authorities; on 12 February, his lawyer visited him in Meggido prison, where he is currently held.

His lawyer told Amnesty International that Hassan Karajah is being subjected to torture and other ill-treatment by the Israel Security Agency, which is interrogating him. He said that Hassan Karajah complained that he is being interrogated for up to 14 hours a day, while his arms and legs are shackled to a chair in stress positions. Hassan Karajah also complained of sleep deprivation during the first few days of interrogation.

Hassan Karajah told his lawyer that although the authorities detaining him provided him with painkillers, they have not granted him the medicine prescribed for his back injury.

### **Please write immediately in Hebrew, English or your own language:**

- Calling on the Israeli authorities to release Hassan Karajah unless he is charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence and tried in proceedings that meet international fair trial standards;
- Calling on them to protect Hassan Karajah from torture and other ill-treatment, and allow him all necessary medical care he may require.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 MARCH 2013 TO:**

#### Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu  
Office of the Prime Minister  
3 Kaplan St.  
PO Box 187  
Kiryat Ben-Gurion  
Jerusalem 91950  
Email: [b.netanyahu@pmo.gov.il](mailto:b.netanyahu@pmo.gov.il)  
[pm\\_eng@pmo.gov.il](mailto:pm_eng@pmo.gov.il)  
**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

#### Military Judge Advocate General

Brigadier General Danny Efroni  
6 David Elazar Street  
Hakiryia, Tel Aviv, Israel  
Fax: +972 3 569 4526  
Email: [avimn@idf.gov.il](mailto:avimn@idf.gov.il)  
**Salutation: Dear Judge Advocate  
General**

#### **And copies to:**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of  
Defence  
Ehud Barak  
Ministry of Defence  
37 Kaplan Street, Hakiryia  
Tel Aviv 61909, Israel  
Fax: +972 3 691 6940  
+972 3 696 2757  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 27/13. Further information:  
<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE15/002/2013/en>

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hassan Karajah was arrested on 23 January 2013 from his home in the village of Saffa, near Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank. According to his brother, around 20 officers broke into the house at 2:30am without a search warrant, separated the men and women into different rooms and then searched the house. Hassan Karajah was interrogated outside the house and then blindfolded, handcuffed and taken to the Moscobiyya Detention Centre (also known as the Russian Compound) in Jerusalem. Israeli officers confiscated three computers and several personal documents and photos. According to his brother, the officers threatened members of the family.

On 24 January, Hassan Karajah was moved to Jalameh prison in northern Israel and brought before a military court there; his detention was extended by 12 days. The security services interrogating him issued an order the same day to deny him access to a lawyer. On 29 January, the Palestinian human rights organization, Addameer, filed a petition against the order to extend his interrogation without access to a lawyer. A military court decision on 31 January rejected the appeal. On 4 February the order to ban lawyer access was extended until 11 February 2013.

Hassan Karajah is the Youth Programs Coordinator at Stop the Wall Campaign, which has previously faced harassment by Israeli forces, most recently in May 2012 when Israeli forces raided the organization's offices. Before joining the organization, he worked as a youth coordinator for a development project that involved three Palestinian civil society organizations: Tamer Institute, Ma'an Development Center, and Bissan Center for Research and Development. Hassan Karajah was also a youth ambassador for the Arab Thought Forum and represented Palestinian youth in many international conferences around the world. He is also a member of the Handala Cultural Centre in his home village of Saffa.

Hassan Karajah's arrest is part of a wider pattern of harassment by Israeli forces of human rights defenders and activists in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

At around 1:00am on 15 October 2012, the Israeli authorities arrested human rights researcher Ayman Nasser, who is also involved with the Handala Cultural Centre, at his home in the village of Saffa. According to Addameer, the raid lasted about an hour and a half, after which Ayman Nasser was taken to the Moscobiyya Detention Centre in Jerusalem.

On 8 November 2012, a military court extended Ayman Nasser's detention by seven days for the fourth time since his arrest. He told his lawyer that he was interrogated for up to 20 hours every day. He said that during the interrogation he was kept in a stress position on a chair with his hands tied behind his back.

Ayman Nasser was presented to a military court on 12 December 2012. Charges read against him included membership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is banned by the Israeli authorities, and carrying out activities within this organization in support of Palestinian prisoners. According to his lawyer, Ayman Nasser denies the charges and says that his activities in solidarity with prisoners were carried out in his capacity as a human rights defender with Addameer and the Handala Cultural Centre. His trial is underway, with the most recent hearing on 4 February 2013. He is currently detained at Megiddo prison.

Name: Hassan Karajah  
Gender m/f: m