

EXTERNAL

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Torture / Fear of torture

4 March 1996

SAUDI ARABIA Muhammad Samir Said Aljabari, aged 60, chief auditor

Muhammad Samir Said Aljabari, a senior civil servant, has reportedly been tortured in incommunicado detention in a prison in Taif. Amnesty International fears that he will remain at risk of torture as long as he is held without access to the outside world. The organization does not know the exact reasons for his detention, but unconfirmed reports suggest that these may be political.

Reports indicate that Muhammad Samir Said Aljabari was arrested about seven months ago from his home in Riyadh, in the presence of his wife and 11-year-old son. Three plainclothes police officers - believed to be members of the General Intelligence - are said to have carried out the arrest without a warrant and without giving any reasons.

Muhammad Samir Said Aljabari, a Palestinian with Jordanian nationality, has been working in the government's General Accountancy Department in Saudi Arabia for the last 35 years. His arrest is said to have taken place shortly after his return from a working visit to the Eastern province which apparently related to auditing the accounts of the government's water and health departments there.

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

- calling for an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into reports that Muhammad Samir Said Aljabari has been tortured in a prison in Taif, and requesting to be informed of the results of this investigation;
- expressing concern that he continues to be held incommunicado and calling for him to be allowed immediate access to family, lawyers and medical attention, if necessary;
- seeking information about the reasons for his detention and calling for his immediate and unconditional release if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and given a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards for fair trial.

APPEALS TO

1) The Custodian of the two Holy Shrines
His Majesty
King Fahd bin 'Abdul-'Aziz
Office of H.M. The King
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: King Fahd, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Salutation: Your Majesty

2) His Royal Highness
Prince Naif bin 'Abdul-'Aziz
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
PO Box 2833
Riyadh 11134
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: Minister Interior, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Telexes: 404416
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

3) His Royal Highness
Prince Saud al-Faisal bin 'Abdul 'Aziz
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nasseriya Street
Riyadh 11124
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: Minister Foreign Affairs, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Telexes: 405000
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Saudi Arabia accredited to your country.

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