

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 15/10/93

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*This is a limited action. Please organize up to TEN appeals per section.*

Further information on UA 288/92 (15/22/92, 11 September 1992) - and follow-ups: MDE 15/24/92 of 25 September 1992, MDE 15/25/92 of 9 October 1992, MDE 15/26/92 of 22 October 1992, MDE 15/29/92 of 13 November 1992, MDE 15/30/92 of 3 December 1992 and MDE 15/31/92 of 11 December 1992 - Torture/ill-treatment/legal concern

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: Ahmad Sulayman Musa Qatamesh  
Ahmad Sa'dat 'Abd al-Rasul

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The trial of Ahmad Sulayman Musa Qatamesh (ID card no 9837624-1), which began on 3 December 1992 but has been postponed several times, is now due to resume on 2 August 1993. Ahmad Qatamesh is currently held in Ashqelon Prison in Israel, after having been moved several times since his arrest. He was granted bail on 13 December 1992, but was not released because the prosecution appealed. On 16 December, another judge reportedly ordered that he should be released and placed under house arrest for the duration of the trial. However, the authorities obtained a suspension of this decision until late January 1993, when the release order was eventually cancelled and Ahmad Qatamesh was remanded in custody until the end of proceedings.

Ahmad Sulayman Musa Qatamesh from Ramallah on the West Bank was arrested on 1 September 1992 apparently on the grounds that he was a senior leader in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). He first met a lawyer on 23 September 1992. He was charged on 22 November 1992 with charges including "performing a service for the PFLP and possession of hostile [inciting] material".

Ahmad Qatamesh has alleged that during his interrogation he was tortured. Specifically he has said that he was held in solitary confinement in a filthy cell; subjected to prolonged sleep deprivation; threatened with death; hooded with a dirty sack; and shackled in a painful position for a long time. In an open letter received by Amnesty International in June 1993 he reaffirmed that he had been "detained incommunicado, denied access to his lawyer on several occasions, tortured, and systematically mis-treated." During his detention, Ahmad Qatamesh also reportedly suffered from severe headaches, breathing difficulties and problems with his vision.

In December 1992 the Israeli authorities stated that "[i]n response to allegations of maltreatment, an investigation ...found that the relevant authorities had acted in full compliance with the legal guidelines." It also stated that a medical check shortly after his arrest had determined that he was healthy and fit to undergo interrogation."

Amnesty International remains concerned at Ahmad Qatamesh's treatment during interrogation. The response from the authorities does not indicate whether Ahmad Qatamesh's description of his treatment was found to be either wholly or partially correct. In addition, Amnesty

International has long been concerned at the Israeli authorities' systematic use of interrogation practices amounting to torture or ill-treatment, and at the existence of secret guidelines allowing psychological and physical pressure. Thus the claim that the legal guidelines were fully complied with does not allay Amnesty International's concerns in this respect.

Ahmad Sa'dat 'Abd al-Rasul (ID number 96505613), who was placed under administrative detention in November 1992, had his administrative detention order renewed for a further six months on 23 March 1993. He is now due for release on 22 September 1993. Amnesty International remains concerned about his allegations of ill-treatment during interrogation, noting that no response has been received from the authorities.

Amnesty International is also concerned at the repeated postponements of Ahmad Qatamesh's trial and at Ahmad Sa'dat's continuing administrative detention. The organization opposes the detention without trial of all political detainees, and therefore calls on the Israeli authorities to release both men if they are not to be tried promptly and fairly.

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

- calling for Ahmad Qatamesh and Ahmad Sa'dat to be released unless they are tried promptly and fairly;

- reiterating concern at the allegations of torture or ill-treatment of both men and calling for an independent and impartial investigation of Ahmad Sa'dat's allegations if one has not been carried out;

- stating that the finding that Ahmad Qatamesh's interrogation was conducted in "full compliance" with the relevant guidelines does not allay your concerns;

- asking to be given information on the methods and detailed results of the investigation into both men's allegations, and specifically whether Ahmad Qatamesh's description of his treatment in interrogation was found to be either wholly or partially true.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Mr Yitzhak Rabin  
Prime Minister and Minister of Defence  
Office of the Prime Minister  
3 Kaplan Street  
Jerusalem 91919  
State of Israel

**Salutation: Dear Mr Prime Minister**

**Telegrams: Prime Minister Rabin, Jerusalem, Israel**  
**Telexes: 25279 mpres il**  
**Faxes: +972 2 664838**

2) Brigadier-General Ilan Shiff  
Judge Advocate General  
c/o Ministry of Defence  
7 "A" Street  
Hakirya  
Tel Aviv  
Israel

**Salutation: Dear Brigadier-General Shiff**

**Telegrams: Judge Advocate General, Tel Aviv, Israel**  
**Faxes: +972 3 219851**

3) Major-General Dani Yatom  
Commander of the Central Command  
Beth-El  
West Bank  
Via Israel

**Salutation: Dear Major General Yatom**

**Telegrams: Military Commander Central Command, Beth-el, via Israel**  
**Faxes: + 972 2 249989**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Judge Yosef Harish  
Attorney General  
P.O. Box 1087  
Jerusalem  
State of Israel

and to diplomatic representatives of Israel and the Occupied Territories accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 September 1993.