

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 15/09/92

Distr: UA/SC

2 April 1992

**Further information on 457/90 (MDE 15/42/90, 13 November 1990) -
Torture/Detention without trial**

ISRAEL and THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES:Rami Fakhri 'Abdullah Muslah

Rami Fakhri 'Abdullah Muslah, aged 15, from al-Burayj Refugee Camp in the Gaza Strip is currently in detention in the minors' section of Beer Sheva Prison in Israel. He was arrested on 25 September 1990 and is still awaiting trial on charges of involvement in the killing of an Israeli soldier in al-Burayj Refugee Camp on 20 September 1990. The soldier who had driven into the camp by mistake, was surrounded by a crowd who set him alight in his car. No date has yet been set for Rami Muslah's trial, and his health is reportedly poor.

Rami Muslah alleged that he was tortured by members of the General Security Service (GSS) during interrogation in Gaza Central Prison, and that as a result he confessed to having been involved in the killing of the soldier. His lawyer submitted a complaint about his allegations of torture, which included being hooded and handcuffed, beaten all over the body and being threatened with a gun placed to his head. He said an interrogator poured water over his genitals saying that it was petrol and threatened to set it alight. He also said that he was beaten in a cell by someone claiming to be another prisoner, and was slapped on the face by a medical orderly when taken for treatment.

Early in January 1991 Rami Muslah was visited, without the presence of a lawyer, by investigators who apparently identified themselves as members of the GSS and accused him of lying about his allegations of torture. He apparently stated to them that he had suffered from asthma prior to his arrest, but told them that his condition had worsened as a result of his torture.

In a response to Amnesty International dated 12 January 1991 (see attached document) the Israeli authorities said that Rami Muslah's allegations that physical force had been used against him were investigated and found to be baseless. The authorities said that the claim that a gun was placed to Rami Muslah's head was also "found to be untrue". Rami Muslah's lawyer also received a letter from the authorities dated 14 March 1991 stating that there had been no irregularities in his interrogation. It also stated that an answer to the complaint that he had been slapped by a medical orderly would be forthcoming.

On 19 March 1991 his lawyer wrote back to the authorities asking for clarification of a number of points. These included whether the authorities who examined the complaint were independent from the GSS which had carried out the interrogation, whether all the specific allegations of torture were found to be untrue, and if not, which were found to be true. His lawyer also asked to be informed as to which of the methods of Rami Muslah's interrogation were found to have been regular methods. She also asked for clarification of Rami Muslah's medical condition prior to his arrest, and for details of the actual medical

care he received in prison. So far Rami Muslah's lawyer has received no further response from the authorities. Rami Muslah told his lawyers that he did not make false allegations of torture to his lawyers.

Amnesty International opposes the detention without trial of political prisoners, and is calling for Rami Muslah to be released unless he is brought to a fair trial without further delay. It is also calling for the details of the investigation into his allegations of torture to be made public.

Page 2 of FU 457/90

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: airmail letters/telexes/faxes/telegrams

- calling for Rami Muslah to be released unless he is brought to a fair trial without delay;
- asking to be informed of the details of the investigation into Rami Muslah's complaint of torture, including whether the examining authority was independent of the GSS and whether any of the methods of interrogation he described were found to be standard;
- asking to be informed as to whether the investigation revealed that an implement other than a gun was used to threaten Rami Muslah during his interrogation;
- asking to be given exact details of the "appropriate treatment" Rami Muslah received from doctors in Gaza Prison;
- asking to be informed of the result of any investigation into his complaint that he was slapped by a medical orderly when taken for medical treatment;
- asking for assurances that Rami Muslah is receiving all appropriate medical treatment in Beer Sheva Prison.

APPEALS TO:

1) Yitzhak Shamir
Prime Minister
Officer of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street
Hakirya
Jerusalem 91919, Israel
**Telegrams: Prime Minister Shamir,
Jerusalem, Israel**
Telexes: 25279 MPRES IL
Faxes: + 972-2-358491

2) Moshe Arens
Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
7 "A" Street - Hakirya
Tel Aviv 67659, Israel
**Telexes: 371434 MOD IL
or 337129 MISIT IL**
Faxes: + 972 3 217915
**Telegrams: Defence Minister Arens,
Tel Aviv, Israel**

3) Brigadier General Amnon Strashnov
Judge Advocate General
c/o Ministry of Defence
7 "A" Street - Hakirya
Tel Aviv 67659, Israel
Telexes: 371434 MOD IL
Faxes: + 972 3 217915

4) Shaul Levy
Director
National Prison Authority
5 Hahistadrut Street
Jerusalem, Israel
Faxes: + 972 2 249804

COPIES TO:

Judge Yosef Harish
Attorney General
C/o Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
PO Box 1087
Jerusalem 91010, Israel
Faxes: + 97 2 2708511

and to diplomatic representatives of Israel in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office if sending appeals after 15 May 1992.