

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 15/29/92

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This is a limited action - please organize up to ten appeals per section.

Further information on UA 288/92 (MDE 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 and MDE 15/25/92 of 22 October 1992 - Torture/ill-treatment

Israel and the Occupied Territories: Ahmad Sulayman Musa Qatamesh

and new names:

Ahmad al-Batsh

Ahmad Sa'dat 'Abd al-Rasul

Ahmad Sulayman Musa Qatamesh (ID card no. 98370264), arrested on 1 September 1992, remains in the interrogation wing of Ramallah Prison, although he is apparently no longer under interrogation. On 8 November he was again brought before a military judge and his detention was extended for a further 15 days. This is the fourth time his detention has been extended.

Ahmad Qatamesh's health is reported to be slightly improved, but to remain poor. According to his lawyer he continues to suffer from headaches and eye inflammation, although he has now regained his sight after receiving medication prescribed by a doctor from the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC). He has not yet been allowed to see an independent doctor of his choice.

Statements circulated by the Israeli Embassy in the United States give details of Ahmad Qatamesh's previous detentions and say he has been sought by the authorities since 1976. The statements say that he was the head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in the Occupied Territories until his arrest and, as such, directed the military and political activities of the PFLP. The statements also say that "[at] the beginning of his interrogation Ahmad Qatamesh declined a visit from his attorney" and that "[as] is the practice, the Red Cross has visited Mr. Qatamesh regularly since the first day of his arrest". His lawyer, however, alleges that the authorities did not allow Ahmad Qatamesh access to a lawyer until 23 September. At a bail hearing on 10 September he was not allowed to see his lawyer on the grounds that "it could harm the interrogation and strengthen his self-confidence". The lawyer also alleges that Ahmad Qatamesh was not visited by the ICRC until at least 16 days after his arrest.

Amnesty International has also received reports alleging torture or ill-treatment of two other political detainees while in custody.

Ahmad al-Batsh (ID card no. 080639040), 45, from Jerusalem was arrested on 9 September 1992. He is still held in Ramallah Prison and is being interrogated about alleged membership and activities on behalf of al-Fatah (the main faction of the PLO). At a bail hearing on 15 September, he complained to the judge that he had been tortured and showed the judge bruises on his back and on his neck which he said had been caused by an interrogator throttling

him. The judge ordered a medical examination but its outcome is not known. Ahmad al-Batsh also alleges that he was hooded and shackled for long periods in uncomfortable positions, causing him breathing difficulties and severe back pain. His lawyer has apparently submitted a complaint about this to the authorities.

Ahmad Sa'dat 'Abd al-Rasul (ID card no. 96505613), 42, from al-Bireh on the West Bank, was arrested on 27 August 1992. Shortly afterwards he was transferred to the Petah Tikva detention centre where he is held in isolation. He has reportedly alleged that he was hooded and shackled for long periods in uncomfortable positions, threatened with continued isolation and deprived of sleep while being interrogated about his alleged membership of and activities on behalf of the PFLP. He is reported to suffer from severe back ache, pain in his left leg, and rheumatism.

Amnesty International is concerned about these continuing reports of torture and ill-treatment and is again calling for any such torture or ill-treatment to cease immediately. These and other such allegations should be fully and impartially investigated with the methods and findings of the investigations being made public. Amnesty International also calls for these three detainees to be allowed immediate access to adequate and independent medical care of their choice.

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

- expressing concern about the allegations of torture or ill-treatment of Ahmad al-Batsh (ID no. 080639040) and Ahmad Sa'dat 'Abd al-Rasul (ID no. 96505613);
- seeking assurances that any such practices will be stopped immediately;
- urging that the allegations of the torture or ill-treatment of all three detainees be immediately and impartially investigated;
- asking for information on the current legal status of all three detainees;
- expressing concern about the health of all three detainees and urging that they be allowed access to adequate and independent medical care of their choice.

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 Prime Minister

Telegrams: Prime Minister Rabin, Jerusalem, Israel
Telexes: 25279 mpres il
Faxes: +972 2 664 838

2) Major-General Dani Yatom
Military Commander for the
Central Command
c/o Ministry of Defence
7 "A" Street, Hakirya
Tel Aviv 64734
State of Israel

Salutation: Dear Major-General Yatom

Telegrams: Military Commander Central Command, Tel Aviv, Israel
Telexes: 371434 mod il

3) Colonel Moshe Rosenberg
Legal Adviser for the Central Command
Beth-El
West Bank

Salutation: Dear Colonel Rosenberg

Via Israel

Faxes: +972-2-788738

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Judge Yosef Harish

Attorney General

P.O. Box 1087

Jerusalem

State of Israel

Faxes: +972 2 869473

and to diplomatic representatives of Israel accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 31 December 1992.