

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Torture

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ISRAEL AND THE

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: Rami Fakhri 'Abdullah Muslah

Rami Fakhri 'Abdullah Muslah (Identification number 900944372), aged 14, has allegedly been tortured while in detention in Gaza Central Prison.

Rami Muslah, a schoolboy from al-Burayj Refugee Camp in the Gaza Strip, was arrested on 25 September 1990 in the aftermath of the burning to death of an Israeli soldier in the camp a few days earlier. He was taken to Gaza Central Prison, where he was denied access to a lawyer until 29 October. On 30 October, he was brought before a judge for a remand hearing without the presence of a lawyer. His detention was extended for 120 days. He has apparently confessed that he threw stones and bought petrol during the incident in which the soldier was killed. He alleges that he told the judge that the confession was untrue and had been made as a result of torture.

The lawyer who saw Rami Muslah on 29 October said that he was breathing heavily, had difficulty speaking, and was coughing frequently, sometimes spitting blood. Rami Muslah told the lawyer that during interrogation he had been beaten all over his body, mainly on the head and chest.

On 9 November two lawyers visited Rami Muslah and took an affidavit from him. They said that he looked ill, continued to have difficulty speaking and coughed frequently. In the affidavit Rami Muslah alleges that he was interrogated by eight men. They apparently beat him all over his body, including his chest, stomach and genitals. He said one placed a gun to his head and threatened to shoot him if he did not confess, then poured water over his genitals, saying that it was petrol, and threatened to set it alight. Throughout the period of interrogation he was hooded and handcuffed. He was also beaten all over his body in a cell by someone who claimed to be a prisoner as well. Afterwards Rami Muslah said he was taken to a medical orderly who slapped his face. An interrogator then forced him to pick up his hood, which was on the floor, with his mouth, and kicked him as he bent over. The torture apparently continued over a period of a week. Rami Muslah indicated he had seen a doctor three times, in addition to the medical orderly, but had only received some tablets.

Rami Muslah's lawyer has submitted a complaint to the Attorney General about these allegations of torture.

Amnesty International is gravely concerned at the allegations of torture of Rami Muslah and is calling for them to be investigated swiftly and impartially, and for anyone found to be responsible to be brought

to justice. It also calls on the authorities to take appropriate measures to prevent any further torture or ill-treatment of Rami Muslah, and to ensure that he receives appropriate medical treatment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the allegations of torture of Rami Fakhri 'Abdullah Muslah while in Gaza Central Prison;
- calling for the complaint of his lawyer to be investigated promptly and thoroughly, and for anyone found responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling for appropriate measures to be taken to prevent any further torture or ill-treatment of Rami Muslah, and to ensure that he receives all appropriate medical treatment.

PLEASE ORGANIZE 25 APPEALS PER SECTION

APPEALS TO:

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

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

Brigadier General Amnon Strashnov
Judge Advocate General
C/o Ministry of Defence
7 "A" Street - Hakirya
Tel Aviv 67659, Israel
Telexes: 371434 MOD IL
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Shaul Levy
Director
National Prison Authority
5 Hahistadrut Street
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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 December 1990.