

EXTERNAL

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To: Medical professionals  
From: Medical Office / Middle East Regional Program  
Date: 10 February 1997

***MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION***

**Interrogation, torture and ill-treatment, and medical supervision  
Nawaf Isma'il Hussein AL-QAYSI  
ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES**

**Keywords**

Theme: torture / position abuse / medical supervision

**Summary**

Attached is information about the ill-treatment and torture during interrogation of a young man who had undergone major abdominal surgery three months prior to his arrest in January 1997. At the present time he is still detained and, although it is believed that he is not longer being subjected to torture, he appears not to be receiving adequate medical care and is not receiving the rehabilitation he needs for his medical condition.

**Recommended Actions**

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses below:

- expressing concern at the torture and ill-treatment of Nawaf Isma'il Hussein al-Qaysi in the Moscobiyya Detention Centre in mid-January 1997. (Please give his identity number, which is 90105183).
- noting that he had undergone major surgery just three months prior to his arrest and expressing concern at reports that one of his legs was visibly swollen and that he had been unable to walk for a number of days before he was seen by a doctor and his ill-treatment ceased.
- urging that those responsible for his treatment in the Moscobiyya detention centre are duly disciplined and that instructions are given to all GSS (General Security Service) officers that they should not resort to ill-treatment and torture during interrogation.

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**Copies** of letters should be sent to:

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**Interrogation, torture and ill-treatment, and medical supervision**

**Nawaf Isma'il Hussein AL-QAYSI  
ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES**

Nawaf Isma'il Hussein al-Qaysi, born 1974, and married with a baby, has been under interrogation by the General Security Service (GSS) since his arrest on 13 January 1997 and during this time he has been subjected to torture and ill-treatment. Three months before his detention he underwent major abdominal surgery after sustaining a gun-shot injury during the violent demonstrations which took place in September 1996, following the opening of a tunnel under the Dome of the Rock in the old city of East Jerusalem.

Nawaf Isma'il Hussein al-Qaysi was arrested from a taxi at around 10am on 13 January 1997 on the Bethlehem Road and taken to Assyon before being taken to the Moscobiyya Detention Centre in Jerusalem, where he continues to be held. According to his testimony, he was interrogated for a number of days while in *shabeh*. *Shabeh* is generally translated as 'position abuse' and is a term used by detainees to describe how they are forced to sit or stand in painful positions for prolonged periods - often while being deprived of sleep. Nawaf Isma'il Hussein al-Qaysi states that during interrogation he was tied to a low chair with his hands behind his back and with his head hooded. (The use of low infants' chairs and other forms of *shabeh* are regular practices in interrogation.) Nawaf Isma'il Hussein al-Qaysi was kept tied to the chair 24 hours a day for seven days following his arrest and was interrogated "every three hours". He claims that he was deprived of sleep throughout almost the entire period -- a soldier shaking him awake any time he dozed.

On 20 January 1997 -- more than a week after his detention -- he was visited by a prison doctor because his lower left leg was so swollen he had been unable to walk for three days. He was in considerable pain in the leg, where he had suffered neurological damage, and in his abdomen.

**Medical history**

Nawaf Isma'il Hussein al-Qaysi had suffered gunshot injuries to the left iliac bone, retroperitoneum and abdomen on 11 October 1996. According to a medical report received by Amnesty International from a rehabilitation society he attended after surgery, he was admitted to hospital conscious, but in severe hypovolemic shock with a bullet wound in the left lateral iliac region. There was no exit wound and X-ray revealed multiple shrapnel fragments in the abdomen.

He then underwent exploratory laparotomy which revealed "massive bleeding from the iliac vein, fracture of the left iliac bone, muscles and nerve injuries, multiple small and large bowel injuries". The iliac vein was ligated, end-to-end anastomosis of the sigmoid injury was performed,

there was suturing of three perforations of the transverse loop of the jejunum and transverse loop colostomy.

Nawaf Isma'il Hussein al-Qaysi's post-operative recovery appears to have been smooth and he was referred to a rehabilitation centre in Bethlehem to try to improve deficit caused by injuries to the left obturator and iliopsoas nerves. Since the shooting and surgery, he has been using a walking aid which is non-weight-bearing to the left lower limb, and a knee support. The report from the rehabilitation centre, dated 29 October 1996, notes that he had a limited range of movement in the left hip due to pain and recommended continuing treatment for 4-6 weeks. The centre has apparently expressed its concern that his physiotherapy has been interrupted.

He is now being interrogated but allowed to sit on a normal sized chair though his hands and feet are reportedly still sometimes shackled. A representative of the State Attorney has informed the prisoner's lawyer that interrogators are aware of his condition and that he is under "medical supervision". After the visit from the prison doctor, he was apparently allowed one week's respite from interrogation. On 30 January 1997, he was taken to hospital but only his leg was examined. On return from the hospital, his interrogation continued.

In August 1996, AI issued a report, *"Under constant medical supervision": torture, ill-treatment and the health professions in Israel and the Occupied Territories* (AI Index: MDE 15/37/96), which examined the failure of doctors witnessing the effects of ill-treatment and torture of prisoners to report such ill-treatment or to take action to stop it. This case suggests that doctors continue to offer "medical supervision" of detainees undergoing torture. AI has argued that doctors and other health professionals can play a key role in exposing human rights violations through ethical documentation of torture and ill-treatment. However, there is a risk that doctors working in, or cooperating with, agencies practising ill-treatment can become mediators of such ill-treatment. AI is urging the Israeli authorities to end the use of torture against prisoners and urging doctors to end their role as supervisors of such activities.