

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 49/95 (MDE 15/04/95, 24 February 1995) and follow-up (MDE 15/05/95, 7 March) - Legal Concern

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES - Palestinian Authority's Areas: Gaza:

At least 47 people, including:

- Attiya Abu Mansur, journalist
- Hammad Fayyad, journalist
- Zakariya Madhhun, journalist
- Khaled Sadiq, journalist
- Nabid Kutkut, journalist

The five journalists named above were released in the second week of May 1995 having been held for three months. They had not been charged, given access to a lawyer, or brought before a judge.

At least 25 of the others detained at the same time have been released. Others have been brought to trial before the State Security Court, which was established by Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, in a decree issued in February 1995. After the court started functioning in April, Amnesty International urged the Palestinian Authority to halt the trials because they were grossly unfair, and violated the minimum standards of international law (see News Service 79/95, MDE 15/11/95, 27 April 1995). However, trials are continuing.

At present no further action by the Urgent Action Network is requested. Thank you to all who sent appeals.