

PUBLIC

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UA 101/05

Incommunicado detention/ fear of torture and ill-treatment/
medical concern

ISRAEL/
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Nawaf Isma'il al-Qaysi (m), aged 31

Nawaf Isma'il al-Qaysi has been held incommunicado, which puts him at grave risk of torture, since 15 April 2005. He is being interrogated by the Israeli Security Agency (ISA) at the Moskobiya detention centre in Jerusalem.

His family and lawyer only found out where he was held, and that he was in ISA custody, on 20 April, when a military court extended his detention without charge for interrogation for an additional 18 days.

He was arrested by the army in the early hours of 15 April. According to his family, at 3am a large number of soldiers surrounded the house where he lives with his extended family, in al-Azza refugee camp, Bethlehem. They had several armoured vehicles, an ambulance and dogs with them. The soldiers locked the women and children in a neighbouring house, and searched the men. After he identified himself, soldiers blindfolded Nawaf, put him in handcuffs and leg-irons, and took him away after ransacking the house. They did not tell his family why they were arresting him or where they were taking him.

Nawaf Isma'il al-Qaysi, who is married with three children, had previously been arrested in January 1997. He was first interrogated by the ISA for nearly three months, and then placed under administrative detention, meaning detention without charge or trial, for six months. He was eventually released in October that year, without having been charged with any offence and without any explanation as to why he had been detained.

He was tortured during the 81 days that he was interrogated. This included tying him up in painful positions for prolonged periods (for instance, tying him to a stool with his legs under him and his back arched backwards, his wrists tied to his ankles behind his back); covering his head with a filthy sack; playing loud music and depriving him of sleep for days at a time; exposing him to extreme cold; keeping him outdoors in cold and wet conditions; threatening him with death or sexual abuse; and violently shaking him.

This treatment seriously aggravated injuries Nawaf Isma'il al-Qaysi had sustained in September 1996 when he was shot by the Israeli security forces. He had undergone several surgical operations for these injuries before he was arrested in 1997. In 2004 he was certified as 70% disabled by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Despite repeated surgical treatment (the most recent in February 2005) and physiotherapy, he can hardly walk, as his left leg has atrophied. He complains of frequent pain in the pelvic area as well as in the knee and the back. He suffers from incontinence and has difficulty sleeping.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Hebrew or your own language:

- expressing concern that Nawaf Isma'il al-Qaysi is detained incommunicado, and calling on the authorities to allow him immediate access to a lawyer and his family;
- urging the authorities to allow him immediate access to a doctor, and to provide him with the medical care he needs;
- urging the authorities to release Nawaf Isma'il al-Qaysi unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought to trial in a court of law in accordance with international standards for fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street
P O Box 187
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem 91919, Israel

Fax: +972 2 566 4838 / 670 5475

E-mail: rohm@pmo.gov.il or pm_eng@pmo.gov.il

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Shaul Mofaz, Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
Kaplan Street, Hakiryia
Tel Aviv 61909, Israel

Fax: +972 3 691 6940 / 696 2757 / 691 7915

E-mail: sar@mod.gov.il or pniot@mod.gov.il

Salutation: Dear Minister

(Ms) Tzipi Livni, Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010, Israel

Fax: +972 2 628 7757

E-mail: sar@justice.gov.il

Salutation: Dear Minister

Menahem Mazuz, Attorney-General and
Legal Advisor to the Government
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010
Israel

Fax: + 972 2 627 4481 / 628 5438 / 530 3367

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES 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 10 June 2005.