

PUBLIC

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To: Health professionals
From: Medical Office / East Mediterranean sub-regional team
Date: 16 May 2003

Further information on
MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

Asma Muhammad Suleiman Saba'neh

ISRAEL and the OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
(See AI Index: MDE 15/025/2003, 26 February 2003)

Keywords: administrative detainee, disruption of health care

On 26 February 2003, Amnesty International appealed for the release of Asma Muhammad Suleiman Saba'neh, aged 40, who had been arrested without charge on 11 February 2003. Since then she has been held under administrative detention. She continues to suffer from headaches and other health problems such as dizziness and loss of weight. She has a history of tumours of the brain and was advised to seek further medical investigation of her condition. These investigations were made impossible by her arrest. She has still not had the CT scan which had been recommended to her just prior to her arrest.

Amnesty International is calling for the release of Asma Saba'neh, unless she is to be promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought to trial in full accordance with international standards for fair trial. In addition, AI is again calling urgently for the Israeli authorities to guarantee her immediate access to appropriate medical investigation and care as required by her condition. There are no signs that the Israeli authorities intend to permit her proper medical investigations during the period of her six month administrative detention order. Amnesty International believes that prompt investigation and treatment of her condition is essential.

Recommended action

Please send polite appeals using your professional letter-head if possible to the addresses below:

- o saying that you are inquiring about Asma Muhammad Suleiman Saba'neh of Jenin refugee camp (ID no. 985530765) – if you have written previously you should state this
- o asking for the reasons for her administrative detention by IDF forces and whether she has been charged with an offence
- o expressing your serious concern for her health because of her history of tumours in the brain and her persistent headaches, dizziness and other problems

o urging that she be given prompt access to an appropriate medical facility for the investigation of her headache and to any treatment recommended

o urging that she be immediately released unless she is to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence and promptly brought to trial

Addresses

Meir Sheerit
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010, Israel
Fax: +972 2 6285438
E-mail: sar@justice.gov.il
Salutation: Dear Minister

Elyakim Rubinstein
Attorney-General and Legal Advisor to the Government
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010, Israel
Fax: +972 2 6285438
Salutation: Dear Attorney-General

and new address:

Mrs Orit Adato
Commissioner
Israel Prison Service
Fax: 972 8 921 0649

Copy

Send a copy of your letter to
Addameer
PO Box 17338
Jerusalem
Israel
Email: addameer@planet.edu

[Addameer is the Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association]

Please also send copies of your appeals to diplomatic representatives of Israel accredited to your country.

If you receive no reply from the government within four weeks of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow-up letter seeking a response, referring to your previous correspondence. Please check with the medical team if you are sending appeals after 31 March 2003, and send copies of any replies you do receive to the International Secretariat (att: medical team).

Monitoring of actions

If you have access to e-mail you can help our attempt to monitor letter writing actions. If you write one, two or more letters please send us an e-mail and let us know. Please write in the subject line of your e-mail the index number of the action and the number of letters you write e.g. MDE 15/000/2003 – 2 (if you send two letters)

Please send your message to medical@amnesty.org --Thank you