

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 126/96

Torture / Fear of Torture

14 August 1996

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY 'Ayman Sliman Muhammad al-Sabbah
Jamal al-Nabulsi
Naser Juma'

at least 120 other detainees at Jneid Prison in Nablus

On 11 August 1996, four detainees, hospitalized on 9 and 10 August reportedly after severe torture by naval police in Jneid Prison in Nablus, were transferred back to prison, where they and others are in grave danger of suffering further torture.

The four were among a group of people arrested in Tulkarem after a demonstration on 2 August calling for the release of detainees. One demonstrator was shot dead by police during the demonstration. About 200 demonstrators were arrested and about 120 were transferred from Tulkarem to Jneid Prison. It is believed that the majority of these have been tortured.

One of the four transferred to the Wataniyya Hospital in Jneid, 'Ayman al-Sabbah, was reportedly beaten for seven hours on the soles of his feet (*falaqa*); his soles were said to be black. Another detainee is said to have collapsed in prison as a result of the beatings he had received.

On 31 July another detainee in Jneid Prison, Mahmud Jumayel, died after being suspended from the ceiling, beaten, and burnt with electric elements and cigarettes (see below). Naser Juma', who had been tortured at the same time as Mahmud Jumayel, was reportedly tortured again on 30 July. After the publicity around the death of Mahmud Jumayel, Naser Juma' was given access to his family and appears not to have been tortured since. However, Amnesty International delegates, including a doctor, who visited Jneid Prison on 3 August were not allowed to visit detainees held by the naval police, including Naser Juma' and Jamal al-Nabulsi, also reported to have suffered torture.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hundreds of political detainees have been held without charge or trial by different branches of at least nine security services which operate in the territories under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Reports of torture of political detainees are frequent and seven people have died in custody in circumstances suggesting they were tortured by PA security services since July 1994. Detainees held at Jneid Prison are held by two of the branches of the Palestinian security forces, the naval police (*bahriyya*) and Force 17 (formed as a special presidential guard).

The naval police have been particularly implicated in torture over the past month. On 26 July Mahmud Jumayel suffered a cardiac arrest and was transferred to hospital in Nablus and then to Ramallah, where he was pronounced brain dead after having been tortured during the previous night by the naval police in Jneid Prison. Three officers in the naval police were arrested and brought to trial before the state security court for causing his death; however the trial was unfair, lasting less than two hours, including a half-hour recess; the defendants had only a military state-appointed lawyer who offered no defence; no witnesses were called and no information was given which might elucidate who had ordered the torture.

Since then, notwithstanding President Arafat's expressions of regret at Mahmud Jumayel's death and the arrest of his alleged torturers, torture has continued in the prison.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, Arabic, or your own language:

- calling on the **President Arafat** to act immediately to stop the torture of detainees in Jneid Prison and the torture of detainees by any member of any security service under its authority; calling for a full commission of inquiry into torture by the naval police and its conclusions public to be made public;
- urging the **Minister of Health** to give orders that doctors should immediately report apparent marks of torture to the Health Ministry and that no detainee who has suffered or is in danger of suffering torture should be returned to the charge of the security services without strong guarantees of good treatment;
- calling on the **Head of the Naval Police (bahriyya)**, Juma' Ghali (Abu Zaki), to act immediately to end torture by the naval police;
- calling on the **Governor (muhafiz) of Nablus**, Mahmud al-Aloul, to ensure that none of the security forces in the Nablus region, including the naval police, is allowed to order or commit torture and that every complaint of report of torture is promptly investigated.

APPEALS TO:

President Yasser Arafat
 Head of the Palestinian Authority
 Palestinian Authority
 Al-Muntada, Gaza, Palestinian Authority
Telegrams: President Arafat, Gaza, Palestinian Authority
Faxes: +972 7 823 744
Salutation: Dear President Arafat

Dr Riyad Za'noun
 Minister of Health
 Ministry of Health
 Gaza, Palestinian Authority
Faxes: + 972 7 869 809
Telegrams: Health Minister, Gaza, Palestinian Authority
Salutation: Dear Dr Za'noun

Juma' Ghali (Abu Zaki)
 Commander of the Naval Police,
 Nablus Office
 Nablus, West Bank, Palestinian Authority
Faxes: + 972 9 384 537 (Say: Fax, please)
Telegrams: Abu Zaki, Bahriyya, Nablus, Palestinian Authority
Salutation: Dear General Abu Zaki

Mahmud al-Aloul
 Governor of Nablus
 Nablus, West Bank, Palestinian Authority
Faxes: + 972 9 389 913 (ask for fax)
Telegrams: Governor al-Aloul, Nablus, Palestinian Authority
Salutation: Dear Mr al-Aloul

COPIES TO:

The Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
 P.O. Box 54627
 Jerusalem

via Israel

Faxes: +972 2 282 869

and to diplomatic representatives of the Palestinian Authority accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 September 1996.