

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/58/96

19 August 1996

Further information on UA 203/96 (MDE 15/56/96, 15 August 1996) -
Prisoner of conscience / Legal concern

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY Muhammad Dahman, 42, human rights activist

On 15 August 1996 the State Security Court extended Muhammad Dahman's detention for a further 15 days. Attorney General Khaled al-Qidreh is reported to have stated that the preventive detention order had been extended while police "pursue the investigation" into the case.

Muhammad Dahman, Director of the Gaza Office of the human rights organization *al-Damir* (Conscience), had been arrested on 12 August by the Palestinian Intelligence Service (*mukhaberat*) after issuing a communique calling for an investigation into the alleged suicide after interrogation of Nahid Dahlan (see original UA).

Amnesty International has frequently criticized the State Security Court for holding blatantly unfair trials, falling far short of international standards for fair trial.

PLEASE CONTINUE ACTION AS SPECIFIED IN ORIGINAL UA, CALLING FOR MUHAMMAD DAHMAN'S IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE AS A PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE.