

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/60/96

27 August 1996

Further information on UA 203/96 (MDE 15/56/96, 15 August 1996) - and follow-up (MDE 15/58/96, 19 August) - Prisoner of conscience / Legal concern

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY Muhammad Dahman, 42, human rights activist

Muhammad Dahman was released on the morning of 27 August 1996. No further details are available at present.

While Amnesty International welcomes the release of Muhammad Dahman whom it considered to be a prisoner of conscience, the organization remains seriously concerned that his detention appears to have been another example of attempts by the Palestinian Authority (PA) to put pressure on human rights activists who openly criticize it. In this case, the PA arrested Muhammad Dahman after he had raised concerns about the death of a detainee after interrogation, rather than set up an investigation into the death itself.

Amnesty International is calling on the PA to allow human rights activists to exercise their internationally recognized right to freedom of expression without fear of arrest and intimidation.

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