

UA 160/02

Torture/ill-treatment

30 May 2002

ISRAEL/
OCCUPIED Marwan Barghouti (m), aged 42
TERRITORIES

Marwan Barghouti was arrested in Ramallah by Israeli security forces on 13 April. He has reportedly been tortured and otherwise ill-treated while being interrogated by the General Security Services (GSS). He was held in incommunicado detention between 18 April and 15 May, but is now allowed visits from his lawyers, but not his family.

Following his arrest, Marwan Barghouti was taken to the Moskobiyyeh detention centre in Jerusalem. He was reportedly deprived of sleep and tortured using a method known as *shabeh*. He was forced to sit on a small sloping chair, where the front legs are shorter than the back legs, while his hands and feet were shackled.

He has now been transferred to Petah Tikvah detention centre in Israel. He reportedly continues to be intensively interrogated and tortured in *shabeh*.

Over a period of 72 hours, he has reportedly only been allowed to sleep for two hours per day. He has also alleged that his interrogators have made threats to kill him and his son, who is being held in Shikma Prison in Ashkelon, Israel.

Marwan Barghouti is the Secretary General of *Fatah*, the dominant political force of the Palestinian Authority, and a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. *Fatah* has carried out many attacks on Israelis, including Israeli civilians, in the Occupied Territories. He is also suspected of having close links with the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a Palestinian armed group linked with *Fatah*, who have been responsible for many armed attacks and suicide bombings against Israelis, including Israeli civilians, in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is concerned at reports it has received of Palestinians being tortured and otherwise ill-treated in Israeli prisons and detention centres. Since incursions into the Occupied Territories by the Israeli Defence Forces on 27 February, thousands of Palestinians have been arrested and detained.

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

- expressing concern that Marwan Barghouti is reportedly being tortured and otherwise ill-treated during interrogation;
- asking that he be treated humanely according to international human rights treaties, such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which Israel has ratified, prohibiting torture or other ill-treatment;
- asking the Israeli authorities to set up an independent investigation into the torture allegations, and make the results of this investigation public;
- calling for anyone who has ordered or carried out torture or ill-treatment to be brought to justice;
- stating that Amnesty International has consistently condemned attacks against civilians carried out by *Fatah* and other armed Palestinian groups, but reminding the Israeli authorities that the Convention against Torture states clearly that: "No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a

threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture." - reminding the Israeli authorities that while he is in custody Marwan Barghouti should be permitted prompt and regular access to his family.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street, PO Box 187
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem 91919, Israel
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel
Fax: + 972 2 670 5475
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Uzi Landau
Minister of Public Security
Ministry of Public Security (Police)
Kiryat Hamemshala
PO Box 18182
Jerusalem 91181, Israel
Telegrams: Minister of Public Security, Jerusalem, Israel
Fax: + 972 2 584 7872
Salutations: Dear Minister

Meir Sheetrit
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010, Israel
Telegrams: Minister of Justice, Jerusalem, Israel
Fax: + 972 2 628 8618
Salutation: Dear Minister

Elyakim Rubinstein
Attorney-General/Legal Advisor to the Government
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010, Israel
Telegrams: Attorney-General, Jerusalem, Israel
Fax: + 972 2 628 5438
Salutation: Dear Attorney-General

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Israel and the Occupied Territories accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 July 2002.