

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 15/076/2002

14 May 2002

Further information on UA 97/02 (MDE 15/028/2002, 28 March 2002) - Legal concern/fear of torture

ISRAEL/'Abd al-Salam 'Adwan (m), aged 38 - married with five
OCCUPIED children
TERRITORIES

After being held in incommunicado detention for 36 days, 'Abd al-Salam 'Adwan was allowed to meet his lawyer on 11 April. Since 1 May, he has been held in administrative detention without charge or trial at the Ofer Detention Centre, between Jerusalem and Ramallah.

On 9 April, 'Abd al-Salam 'Adwan's lawyer and the Public Committee against Torture in Israel (PCATI), an Israeli non-governmental human rights organization, filed a petition with the Israeli High Court of Justice on his behalf. They demanded that he be allowed to meet his lawyer, but withdrew the appeal when the State Attorney agreed that they could meet on 11 April.

'Abd al-Salam 'Adwan told his lawyer that whilst being interrogated, he had been beaten, deprived of sleep and made to stand for long hours in a painful position. He initially complained of severe back pain and could not hear in one ear. Since then his condition seems to have stabilised.

On 13 May, 'Abd al-Salam 'Adwan was served with a six-month administrative detention order, which began on 1 May. Under administrative detention an individual can be held without charge or trial for a specific term. Once this expires, the detention order may be renewed, in a process that can continue indefinitely. Criminal charges are not filed against a detainee, who is not necessarily tried in court. Amnesty International strongly condemns this practice, and has been campaigning on behalf of administrative detainees for years. At present, there are hundreds of administrative detainees in Israeli detention camps.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. If possible please send a final round of appeals, in Hebrew, English or your own language:

- asking for 'Abd al-Salam 'Adwan to be immediately and unconditionally released if he is not to be promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- expressing concern at reports that Abd al-Salam 'Adwan was tortured or ill-treated in incommunicado detention;
- calling for an independent investigation into these allegations, with the results made public and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice;
- reminding the Israel authorities that they are party to the Convention against Torture;
- calling for an end to the use of administrative detention.

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 2 651 2631

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

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

Elyakim Rubinstein
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29 Salah al-Din Street
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Fax: + 972 2 628 5438
Salutation: Dear Attorney-General

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.