

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 15/082/2001

UA 234/01 Fear of torture/legal concern/possible prisoner
of conscience

14 September 2001

ISRAEL/Daoud al-Dir'awi (m), human rights defender, 27 years old
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Lawyer Daoud al-Dir'awi was arrested on 10 September, as he returned from a family holiday. We have received reports that he is being interrogated by the Israeli General Security Services (GSS). He is held without access to his lawyer or family, which puts him at greater risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Amnesty International believes he may be a prisoner of conscience, arrested in connection with his human rights work.

Daoud al-Dir'awi works in the Ramallah office of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights. He was arrested at the Allenby Bridge crossing point between the West Bank and Jordan, as he returned from holiday with his wife and baby. He was reportedly taken to Shikma Prison, in Ashkelon.

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

- urging the Israeli authorities to release Daoud al-Dir'awi immediately and unconditionally, as he appears to be a prisoner of conscience;
- expressing concern at reports that other Palestinian detainees have been tortured or ill-treated during interrogation, and asking the authorities to ensure that Daoud al-Dir'awi is treated according to international standards;
- expressing concern that Daoud al-Dir'awi is being held incommunicado, and reminding the Israeli authorities that while he is in custody, Daoud al-Dir'awi has the right of access to his lawyer and his family.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street, PO Box 187
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem 91919

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem
Fax: + 972 2 651 2631
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Uzi Landau
Minister of Public Security
Ministry of Public Security (Police)
Kiryat Hamemshala
PO Box 18182
Jerusalem 91181

Fax: + 972 2 584 7872
Salutation: Dear Minister of Public Security

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

Salutation: Dear Minister of Justice

Eli Yishai
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of Interior
2 Kaplan Street
PO Box 6158
Kiryat Ben Gurion
Jerusalem 91061

Fax: + 972 2 670 1628

Salutation: Dear Minister of Interior

Elyakim Rubinstein
Attorney-General
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010

Fax: + 972 2 628 5438

Salutation: Dear Attorney-General

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Israel accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 October 2001.