

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: MDE 16/04/93**

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**UA 276/93    Legal concern/Fear of torture**

**17 August 1993**

**JORDAN:        Basel al-Zaghlul  
                 'Askar Muharmeh  
                 Ziyad 'Abd al-Lat  
                 Husayn al-Jidi  
                 Fu'ad Shrifat  
                 Sulayman al-Zuyud  
                 Muhammad 'Awdeh  
                 and one other**

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Amnesty International is concerned at the prolonged incommunicado detention of the above eight men, and at recent reports that some of them may have been tortured while in custody. The men, at least six of whom appear to be students at Mu'tah Military University, are alleged to be members of the illegal Liberation Party in Jordan (LPJ) and to have participated in a plot to assassinate King Hussein of Jordan. They are currently held in Zarqa military prison.

The eight are said to have been arrested on 20 April 1993 and were held in the General Intelligence Department (GID) in Amman. The security authorities are said to have initially denied holding them. No family visits were allowed until several days ago and none appear to have been allowed access to a lawyer.

Family members of at least four of the detainees (Husayn al-Jidi, Fu'ad Shrifat, Basel al-Zaghlul, Sulayman al-Zuyud) have made allegations that their relatives were tortured while held in the GID. For example, Husayn al-Jidi had seven stitches in his eyebrow and marks of beatings on his face according to his family who visited him for 10 minutes on 15 August. The authorities have denied that any torture has occurred.

On 16 August the authorities reportedly admitted holding six military students suspected of involvement in the plot to assassinate King Hussein, who would be brought to trial together with four LPJ leaders. Reports indicate that the eight named above will appear before the State Security Court shortly, possibly on 20 August. The prosecutor general is reported to have said that lawyers will be appointed by the court.

Amnesty International is calling for these and any other detainees to be allowed prompt and regular access to family members and lawyers of their choice. They should be given a prompt and fair trial, or be released. The allegations of torture should be investigated promptly and thoroughly, the results of the investigation should be made public, and anyone found to have been responsible for abuses to be brought to justice.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In May 1993, 'Ata Abu Rushtah, the Spokesperson of the LPJ and Bakr Salem al-Khawalidah, the President of the Party's Cultural Committee, were arrested and held in prolonged incommunicado detention in the GID. According to Amnesty International's information, they were detained on suspicion of trying to change the constitution by illegal means (see Amnesty International's report Jordan: Incommunicado detention of political prisoners, AI Index: MDE 16/01/93). It is not clear whether they have now been implicated in the alleged assassination plot. Another member of the party, Isma'il 'Amer al-Wahwah, is also said to have been arrested.

The LPJ aims at establishing an Islamic state, headed by a caliph, which would include Jordan and all other Muslim countries within its boundaries. Members of the party have consistently stated to Amnesty International that the party does not use or advocate violence in pursuing its aims. To date, no evidence to the contrary has been produced by the Jordanian authorities.

In 1991, some of 18 men convicted of violent offences on behalf of an organization called Jaysh Muhammad claimed to have made confessions under torture. A medical examination by a forensic doctor indicated that some had injuries consistent with subjection to "some form of physical abuse, in some instances of a severe nature". The court reportedly found such medical evidence insufficient to substantiate the allegations of torture.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Arabic, English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern at the allegations of torture of Husayn al-Jidi, Fu'ad Shrifat, Basel al-Zaghlul, Sulayman al-Zuyud;
- expressing concern at their prolonged incommunicado detention together with four others named above, pointing out that this may facilitate the use of torture or ill-treatment;
- calling for the allegations of torture to be investigated immediately and impartially and for anyone found to be responsible for abuses to be brought to justice;
- calling for these, and any other detainees to have prompt and regular access to families and lawyers of their choice;
- asking to be given details of any charges brought against them, and calling for them to be given prompt and fair trials, or to be released.

**APPEALS TO**

1) His Excellency Dr Abdel Salam al-Majali  
Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs  
Office Of the Prime Minister  
PO Box 80, Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Amman, Jordan**  
**Faxes: + 962 6 643520**  
**Telexes: 2144 PM JO**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) His Excellency Salamah Hammad  
Minister of the Interior  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Amman, Jordan**  
**Telexes: 23162 MISTER JO**  
**Faxes: + 962 6 606908**

**Saluation: Your Excellency**

3) Lieutenant-General Mustafa al-Qaysi  
Director of the General Intelligence Department  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Director General, GID, Amman, Jordan**  
**Faxes: + 962 6 670125**

**Saluation: Dear Lieutenant-General**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:** diplomatic representatives of Jordan accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 September 1993.