

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Detention without trial/hunger strike

7 October 1991

JORDAN

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Eight Jordanians held in al-Swaqa prison are reported to have begun a hunger strike on 28 September 1991 to protest against their prolonged detention without charge or trial. One of them, Khalil Abu Sal'um, is said to be suffering from stomach ulcers and was taken to hospital at the al-Husayn Medical City on 6 October. The others are reported to have been placed in solitary confinement.

The eight, aged between 24 and 45, were arrested between 1 and 7 April 1991, apparently on suspicion of planning to infiltrate across the border into Israel or the Occupied Territories. They have not been charged and apparently have not been informed of the legal basis for their detention.

In Jordan anyone suspected of endangering national security may be held in administrative detention, without charge or trial, for indefinite periods. Detainees may also be kept in custody to await trial for an indefinite period.

Amnesty International opposes the administrative detention of political prisoners without charge or trial and calls for all such prisoners to be given a fair trial within a reasonable time. Amnesty International is concerned at the situation of these detainees, and is calling for them to be released unless they are to be charged and given a fair trial without delay. The organization is also urging that they receive all appropriate medical care.

**PLEASE ORGANIZE UP TO 20 APPEALS PER SECTION**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the prolonged detention without trial of these eight prisoners;
- calling for their release unless they are to be charged and given a fair trial without delay;
- calling for them to receive all appropriate medical care.

**APPEALS TO**

1.

His Excellency Taher Masri  
Prime Minister and Minister of Defence  
Office of the Prime Minister  
PO Box 80  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister Masri, Amman, Jordan**  
**Telexes: 21444 PM JO**  
**Faxes: + 962 6 642 520**

**Your Excellency**

2.

His Excellency Taysir Kan'an  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
PO Box 6040  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister Kan'an, Amman, Jordan**

**Your Excellency**

3.

His Excellency Jawdat al-Sbul  
Minister of the Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
PO Box 100  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams: Interior Minister al-Sbul, Amman, Jordan**  
**Faxes: + 962 6 606908**

**Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

His Royal Highness  
Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal  
Heir Apparent  
The Royal Palace  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Faxes: + 962 6 634755**

Jordanian Bar Association  
PO Box 588  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Faxes: + 962 6 677 231**

and to diplomatic representatives of Jordan in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 November 1991.