

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 319/99 (MDE 21/19/99, 15 December 1999) and follow-up (MDE 21/21/99, 20 December 1999) - Prisoners of conscience / Legal concern / Fear of torture or ill-treatment

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITYDr 'Abd al-Sattar Qassem, aged 50, Professor of Political Science

Ahmad Shakr Dudin, aged 58, retired teacher

Dr Yasser Fayege Abu Safieh, aged 45, physician

Dr 'Afif Suleiman al-Judeh, aged 45, physician

Dr 'Abd al-Rahim Kittani, aged 47

Dr 'Adel Samara, aged 57, economist

Ahmad Qatamesh, aged 46, writer and political activist

Adnan Odeh, director of the research unit of the Palestinian Legislative Council

Dr 'Abd al-Sattar Qassem and Ahmad Shakr Dudin were released on 6 January 2000. They were both required to sign an undertaking to appear in court if requested, and to pay 50,000 Jordanian Dinars (about \$US 75,000) if they failed to do so.

Dr 'Abd al-Sattar Qassem thanked Amnesty International for campaigning for his release.

The Palestinian Authority had arrested them and the other six academics and writers named above in November 1999, after they signed a statement criticizing the Palestinian political leadership. Amnesty International considered them to be prisoners of conscience. The other six were released on 19 December 1999.

No further action is required by the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals on behalf of these prisoners of conscience.