

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 21/02/98

11 February 1998

Further information on UA 377/97 (MDE 21/15/97, 1 December 1997) - Torture  
/ Legal Concern

**PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY' Abd al-Hakim Bani Odeh, 22, construction worker**

---

In January 1998 'Abd al-Hakim Bani Odeh was transferred to Nablus Central Prison. He now has access to his lawyer. His family is also able to visit him once a week. 'Abd al-Hakim Bani Odeh has also been seen on at least one occasion by delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). According to the family, the ICRC believes that 'Abd al-Hakim Bani Odeh requires an operation on his leg.

'Abd al-Hakim Bani Odeh has not yet been brought before the public prosecutor or formally charged with any criminal offence. He is said to be accused of relations with "collaborators" and helping to sell land to Israeli citizens.

An officer reportedly spoke to 'Abd al-Hakim Bani Odeh's family outside Nablus Central Prison after a visit. He said that the many faxes which had come from Amnesty International members around the world, expressing concern about 'Abd al-Hakim Bani Odeh had certainly helped him to be transferred to better conditions.

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

- welcoming the fact that 'Abd al-Hakim Bani Odeh has now been granted access to his lawyer and his family;
- calling for the allegations that 'Abd al-Hakim Bani Odeh suffered torture and ill-treatment during interrogation to be investigated and for any officers found to have inflicted torture or ill-treatment to be brought to justice;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that 'Abd al-Hakim Bani Odeh is well treated and receives adequate medical treatment while he remains in detention;
- calling for 'Abd al-Hakim Bani Odeh to be released unless he is promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence and given a fair trial in accordance with international standards.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Yasser Arafat  
Palestinian Authority  
Al-Muntada

Gaza, Palestinian Authority

**Telegrams: President Arafat, Gaza, Palestinian Authority**

**Faxes: +972-7-822365 (ask to send a fax)**

**Salutation: Dear President Arafat**

Colonel Jibril Rajoub  
Head of Preventive Security  
Jericho

Palestinian Authority

**Telegrams: Rajoub, Preventive Security, Jericho**

**Faxes: +972-2-992-1273 (ask to send a fax)**

**Salutation: Dear Colonel Rajoub**

Mr Freih Abu Meddein  
Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice  
Abu Khadra Building  
Omar al-Mukhtar Street  
Gaza, Palestinian Authority  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Gaza, Palestinian Authority**  
**Faxes: +972-7-867109**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights (PICCR)  
Omar al-Mukhtar Street  
al-Shawwa Building  
Gaza, Palestinian Authority  
**Faxes: +972-7-824-438**

Kamal Sharafi, MLC  
Chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Legislative Council  
Legislative Council  
Ramallah  
**Faxes: +972-2 998-7719 (ask for a fax).**

and to diplomatic representatives of the Palestinian Authority accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 March 1998.