

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 21/05/00

10 March 2000

Further information on EXTRA 12/00 (MDE 21/04/00, 29 February 2000) - Fear of torture ill treatment / incommunicado detention / legal concern

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY About 30 students and one employee of Birzeit University

All the students and the one staff member from Birzeit University in the West Bank were released unconditionally by Sunday 5 March 2000. However it has been reported that during their detention some of the students were beaten and one student was threatened with rape.

Five students held following arrest in the General Intelligence detention centre in Ramallah were reportedly insulted and subjected to beatings. One student alleged that a General Intelligence officer pulled down his trousers and threatened to rape him. During the first 24 hours of their detention students held in the Preventive Security Service detention centre in Jericho were allegedly beaten, had hoods placed over their heads and were subjected to position abuse (*shabeh*; where detainees are forced into a position designed to cause pain). The General Intelligence and the Preventive Security Service have denied these allegations.

On 6 March 2000 the student movement in Birzeit University issued a statement thanking all human rights organisations and the media institutions, who contributed to their release.

No further action is required by the Urgent Action Network. Many thanks to all who participated in this urgent action.