

PUBLIC

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UA 274/02

Fear for safety/  
Fear of unlawful killings

2 September 2002

PALESTINIAN

Alleged Palestinian "collaborators" with Israeli  
AUTHORITY  
intelligence services

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Amnesty International is concerned at the abduction and killing by Palestinian armed groups of Palestinians who have allegedly collaborated with the Israeli intelligence services. These attacks have recently become increasingly frequent. More Palestinians are at risk of being killed by the *Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade* and other armed groups, on suspicion of collaborating with Israeli intelligence.

In the past week at least three people have been killed by Palestinian armed groups on suspicion of collaborating with Israeli intelligence. On 24 August, the body of Ikhlas Yassin, who had been abducted the previous day from her home in the city of Tulkarem, was found nearby. She had been shot a number of times. The Palestinian armed group *Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade* claimed responsibility for her abduction and killing. The group was reported by media sources as saying that Ikhlas Yassin had confessed to assisting Israeli intelligence services to assassinate leaders of the *Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade* earlier in August. Her son was also reportedly abducted by the same group, and allegedly interrogated and tortured, before being freed.

On 30 August Rajah Mahmoud Ali, a relative of Ikhlas Yassin, was shot dead. She was reported to have been abducted the previous day with her brother by members of the *Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade*. The two were reportedly abducted in Tulkarem on suspicion of collaboration with Israeli intelligence. It is not clear at present if her brother has been released or is still held.

On 31 August a man, whose identity could not be clearly established, was shot dead in a village near Jenin. The *Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade* reportedly claimed responsibility for the killing to press agencies and accused the man of collaboration with Israeli intelligence.

Since the beginning of the *intifada*, the current Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip which began on 29 September 2000, scores of Palestinians accused of collaborating with and assisting Israel to extrajudicially execute Palestinian activists have been killed by Palestinian armed groups and individuals.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the past two years the Israeli army and security forces have extrajudicially executed scores of Palestinians whom they accused of involvement in attacks and killings of Israelis. Several Palestinians who have been arrested by the Palestinian Authority (PA) on charges of collaboration have told the media that they had assisted Israeli intelligence services in carrying out extrajudicial executions of Palestinians.

In addition to those who have been killed by armed groups, since the beginning of the *intifada*, scores of Palestinians have also been arrested by the PA on suspicion of collaborating with Israeli intelligence. Most of them have been held for prolonged periods without charge or trial and many were reportedly tortured or ill-treated. Those among them who were tried were mostly sentenced to death or to long prison terms after unfair trials and at least two were executed (see also UA 109/02, MDE 21/006/2002, 10 March 2002).

At the beginning of July 2002 the PA urged all Palestinians who collaborate with Israeli intelligence services to give themselves up, promising that those who turned themselves in within a month would receive more lenient sentences

and that those whose assistance to Israeli intelligence services did not result in serious harm to Palestinians could be pardoned.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic, English or your own language:**

- expressing concern at the recent increase in cases of abductions and killings by the *Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade* and other Palestinian armed groups and individuals of Palestinians on suspicion that they collaborated with Israeli intelligence services and urging the PA to call on these groups to put an immediate end to such practices;
- recognizing the need to bring perpetrators of crimes to justice, but calling on the PA to exert all possible efforts and take the necessary measures to ensure that Palestinian armed groups and individuals do not take the law into their own hands and kill alleged collaborators;
- calling on the PA to take the necessary measures to ensure that the members of the *Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade* and other armed groups responsible for the abductions and killing of alleged collaborators are arrested and brought to justice in fair trials;
- calling on the PA to ensure that anyone arrested on suspicion of collaborating with Israel is not subjected to torture or ill-treatment, is granted a fair trial and is not sentenced to death, and that the sentences of those who are currently on death row be commuted.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Yasser Arafat  
The President's Office, Gaza  
Palestinian Authority

**Fax: + 972 8 2 822 159 (it may be difficult to get through, please keep trying)**

**Salutation: Dear President Arafat**

Abd al-Raziq Yihya  
Minister of the Interior  
Palestinian Authority

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Gaza, Palestinian Authority**

**Fax: + 972 2 2 400 668**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Zuheir Manasra  
Head of the Preventive Security Service (West Bank)  
Palestinian Authority

**Fax: + 972 2 290 1801 / 232 1469 / 232 1468**

**Salutation: Dear Mr Manasra**

**COPIES TO:**

Ibrahim al-Daghmah  
Minister of Justice  
P O Box 1021  
Gaza  
Palestinian Authority

**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Gaza, Palestinian Authority**

**Fax: + 972 8 286 7109**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

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

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 October 2002.