

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 31/08/99

EXTRA 131/99Incommunicado detention / Fear of torture

or ill-tr

YEMENOmar Ibrahim Dagah

Amnesty International is concerned that Omar Ibrahim Dagah has been ill-treated and may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment in incommunicado detention. He was arrested on 27 August 1999, reportedly by Political Security branch of the security forces after an explosion in the Tuwahi area of Aden.

His family have been repeatedly refused access to him, but did see him on 6 September when members of Political Security brought him to his home to carry out a search. He was reportedly in shackles and handcuffs and looked weak and exhausted. The officers refused to provide the family with any information about his detention.

On 15 September, in response to further enquiries made by the family, security officials stated that he had confessed to carrying out the bombing and that he would soon appear in court.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has documented many cases of torture in Yemen, particular at the hands of Political Security while a person is in incommunicado detention.

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

- expressing concern that Omar Ibrahim Dagah has been detained incommunicado since his arrest on 27 August 1999, reportedly by Political Security, and that he has been ill-treated;
- asking for him to be given immediate access to a lawyer, his family and to medical treatment;
- expressing concern that he has reportedly been seen in shackles, which are illegal in Yemen and which constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment under international law;
- expressing concern that he has reportedly confessed to a crime without having spoken to a lawyer, in contravention of international human rights standards, including the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers and the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment;
- acknowledging the government's right to bring to justice anyone found responsible for recognizably criminal offences but urging them to ensure that anyone so charged is guaranteed a fair trial, including access to a lawyer, and the right not to be compelled to confess.

APPEALS TO:

General 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh
President of the Republic of Yemen
Sana'a

The Republic of Yemen

Telegrams: President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh, Sana'a, Yemen

Telexes: 2422 RIASAH YE

Faxes: + 967 1 274 147

Salutation: Your Excellency

Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani
Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen
26 September Street
Sana'a
The Republic of Yemen
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Sana'a, Yemen
Faxes:+ 967 1 282 686
Salutation:Your Excellency

Minister of Interior
Hussain Muhammad 'Arab
Ministry of Interior
Al-Hasaba District
Airport Road, Sana'a
The Republic of Yemen
Telegrams:Interior Minister, Sana'a, Yemen
Faxes:+ 967 1 332 511
Salutation:Your Excellency

Minister of Justice
Mr Ismael Ahmad al-Wazeer
Ministry of Justice
Al-Ahdel Street, Sana'a
The Republic of Yemen
Telegrams:Justice Minister, Sana'a, Yemen
Faxes: + 967 1 225836
Salutation:Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Yemen accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 October 1999.