

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 20 per section.

7 March 1995

Further information on UA 49/95 (MDE 15/04/95, 24 February 1995) - Legal Concern

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES - Palestinian Authority's Areas: Gaza:

At least 47 people, including:

- Attiya Abu Mansur, journalist**
- Hammad Fayyad, journalist**
- Zakariya Madhhun, journalist**
- Khaled Sadiq, journalist**
- Nabid Kutkut, journalist**
- 'Ala' Saftawi, office manager of Istiqlal newspaper**

'Ala' al-Saftawi, who was arrested on 6 February 1995 with five other colleagues from *Istiqlal* newspaper, was released on 2 March, on the orders of the security police (*mukhabarat*). He had not been charged, given access to a lawyer, nor brought before a judge. His colleagues, listed above remain in detention.

Amnesty International is concerned at the lack of legal procedure in these arrests and detentions. It believes that at least 47 people remain in detention without charge, most of whom have not been given access to lawyers or brought before a judge.

Three others, Yasser Hussain, Azzam al-Hamalawi and Jaber al-Karinawi, also arrested in early February were released on 28 February.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- calling for the immediate release of the five journalists and 42 others unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and promptly brought to trial according to international standards for fair trial;
- calling on the PA to ensure that all families of detainees are immediately notified of the detention and that all detainees have prompt access to their families, lawyers and independent doctors and to judges, as required by international human rights standards.

APPEALS TO

1. Mr Yasser Arafat
Palestinian Authority
Abu Khadra Building
Omar al-Mukhtar Street
Gaza, via Israel

Faxes: +972 7 822365/6 (if voice, say "fax, please")

Telegrams: Chairman Arafat, Palestinian Authority, Gaza, via Israel

Salutation: Dear Mr Arafat

2. Mr Freih Abu Meddein
Palestinian Authority
Minister of Justice
Abu Khadra Building

Omar al-Mukhtar Street
Gaza, via Israel

Faxes: +972 7 822236

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Palestinian Authority, Gaza, via Israel

Salutation: Dear Mr Meddein

3. Mr Khalid al-Qidrah

Attorney General

Palestinian Authority

Attorney General Building

Yarmouk, Gaza, via Israel

Faxes: +972 7 824503

Telegrams: Attorney General, Palestinian Authority, Gaza, via Israel

Salutation: Dear Mr al-Qidrah

4. Major-General Nasr Yussef

Commander of Police Force

Al-Sarrayeh Building

Gaza, via Israel

Telegrams: Police Commander Yussef, Palestinian Authority, Gaza, via Israel

Faxes: +972 7 822803

Salutation: Dear Major-General

Please Note: It can sometimes be difficult to get through to the Gaza strip by phone/fax.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 April 1995.