

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/15/96

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

UA 64/96 Deliberate and arbitrary killings / Fear of further killings 5 March 1996

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES Fear of continued killings of civilians by Hamas

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On the afternoon of 4 March 1996 in Tel Aviv, 13 civilians were killed and over 100 wounded, including children, in the fourth suicide bombing to be carried out in Israel and the Occupied Territories within the last eight days. Responsibility for the bombing, in which the bomber was also killed, has been claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, *Hamas*.

Amnesty International once again condemns the killing of civilians by suicide bombings and is renewing its calls on the *Hamas* leadership and its activists to halt the deliberate and arbitrary targeting of civilians which is an abuse of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

Political leaders of *Hamas* have called on the '*Izal-Din al-Qassam* brigades and on the students of Yahya Ayyash (the alleged bomb-maker for *Hamas* killed on 5 January 1996) to end their attacks.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 25 February a suicide bomb in Jerusalem exploded and killed 26 people, including the bomber. On the same day another suicide bomb exploded in Ashkelon killing a soldier. On 3 March a third bomb exploded in Jerusalem killing 19 people, including the bomber and two soldiers.

Israeli authorities have sealed eight houses of suicide-bombers' families in the West Bank, and are preparing to destroy them. Israeli Government statements suggest that the General Security Services in Israel may be encouraged to carry out extrajudicial executions. Amnesty International has long-standing concerns regarding the systematic use of torture and ill-treatment against "security" suspects during interrogation. More than 50 members of the families of the bombers have been placed in administrative detention.

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

- condemning the killings of civilians in the two suicide bomb attacks in Jerusalem on 25 February and 3 March and the attack in Tel Aviv on 4 March;
- noting their call on *Hamas* activists to end attacks on civilians;
- calling on the *Hamas* leadership to do all in their power to end attacks on civilians.

#### APPEALS TO:

1. Mr Muhammad Nazzal  
Representative in Jordan  
Islamic Resistance Movement *Hamas*  
PO Box 961700  
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Faxes: +962 6 692 396 (this is a phone/fax, ask to send a fax)**  
**Telegrams: Mr Nazzal, PO Box 961700, Amman, Jordan**  
**Salutation: Dear Mr Nazzal**

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2. Mahmoud al-Zahhar (a *Hamas* leader)

Gaza, Rimal al-Janubi  
opposite al-Rahma mosque  
Gaza  
via Israel

**Salutation: Dear Mr al-Zahhar**

3. Hamas e-mail: [hamas@smartec.com](mailto:hamas@smartec.com)

**Do not send copies to any embassy (the IS will make sure the Israeli authorities and the Palestinian Authority see this UA)**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 April 1996.