

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 15/24/92
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This is a limited action - please organize up to ten appeals per section.

Further information on 288/92 (MDE 15/22/92, 11 September 1992) -
Torture/ill-treatment and new concern: legal concern

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: Ahmad Sulayman Musa Qatamesh

and new name: Suha Barghouthi, female

Amnesty International remains concerned at allegations that Ahmad Sulayman Musa Qatamesh (ID card No. 98370264), arrested on 1 September 1992, has been tortured or ill-treatment while under interrogation. He is currently held in Ramallah Prison. His detention was extended for a further 30 days on 23 September 1992. Amnesty International is also seeking information about the arrest of Suha Barghouthi, the wife of Ahmad Qatamesh, on 24 September 1992.

Ahmad Qatamesh was not allowed to meet a lawyer until 23 September 1992. On 24 September 1992 he told his lawyer that since his bail hearing on 10 September 1992, he had continued to be subjected to prolonged sleep deprivation. His lawyer confirmed that he was extremely tired. He also said that he was being made to sit throughout the day on a low chair with his hands shackled behind his back, although he said that he was no longer being hooded because he had had difficulty breathing. He complained of a constant, severe headache and of other pains, but said that he was refusing medication until he was allowed to sleep. Ahmad Qatamesh stated that on at least three occasions interrogators had told him that he should have been killed rather than detained, and that once he was told that "measures would be taken" to ensure that "something" happened to him. Ahmad Qatamesh remains under interrogation.

Suha Barghouthi, Ahmad Qatamesh's wife, was also arrested on 24 September 1992, and was taken to the Moscobiyah detention centre in Jerusalem where she is apparently being interrogated about her husband's activities. The couple have a three-year-old daughter.

Amnesty International understands that Ahmad Qatamesh is being interrogated in connection with membership and activities on behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. It is continuing to seek information on the exact reasons for his arrest and his current legal situation. It is also seeking similar information about Suha Barghouthi.

Amnesty International continues to call for an immediate investigation into Ahmad Qatamesh's allegations of torture or ill-treatment and is also seeking immediate assurances from the Israeli authorities that throughout any remaining period of interrogation and detention he will be treated in conformity with international standards for the treatment of detainees.

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

- expressing concern at the continuing allegations of torture or ill-treatment of Ahmad Sulayman Musa Qatamesh (ID card No. 98370264);
- urging that his allegations be immediately and impartially investigated;
- seeking immediate assurances that he will be treated in conformity with relevant international standards while he remains in custody;
- asking for information on the reasons for both his arrest and that of his wife, Suha Bargouthi, and their current legal situation.

APPEALS TO:

1) Mr Yitzhak Rabin
Prime Minister and Minister of Defence
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street
Jerusalem 91919
State of Israel

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Telegrams: Prime Minister Rabin, Jerusalem, Israel
Telexes: 25279 mpres il
Faxes: +972 2 664 838

2) Major-General Dani Yatom
Military Commander for
the Central Command
c/o Ministry of Defence
7 "A" Street, Hakirya
Tel Aviv 64734
State of Israel

Salutation: Dear Major-General Yatom

Telegrams: Military Commander Central Command, Tel Aviv, Israel
Telexes: 371434 mod il
Faxes: +972 3 219851

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Judge Yosef Harish
Attorney General
P.O. Box 1087
Jerusalem

State of Israel

Faxes: +972 2 869473

and to diplomatic representatives of Israel and the Occupied Territories accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 October 1992.