

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 15/051/2001

7 June 2001

Further information on UA 132/01 (MDE 15/047/2001, 31 May 2001) -
Torture/ill-treatment/prisoner of conscience and new concern: legal concern

ISRAEL/OT 'Abed al-Rahman al-Ahmar

The Military Court of Appeals in Beit El dismissed 'Abed al-Rahman al-Ahmar's appeal on 31 May. They did so on the basis of secret evidence that neither 'Abed al-Ahmar nor his attorney were allowed to see.

Human rights defender 'Abed al-Rahman al-Ahmar is still held in the Moskobiyya Detention Centre in Jerusalem. He is apparently not being interrogated about any specific offence, and has only been interrogated about three times since his arrest on 24 May 2001. He stated that the interrogation was general, unrelated to any specific charges: he was asked whether he opposes the occupation of the Occupied Territories, and whether he was a terrorist. The General Security Service (GSS), who interrogated him, mentioned his previous interrogations at the hands of former members of the GSS. They told him that he was "going to get a doctorate in interrogation".

He stated that immediately after his arrest he was punched and beaten in the stomach by the Israeli police (not the GSS as originally reported) with a rifle butt. He said that the painkiller given for his back pain and stomach pains (caused or aggravated by previous torture) was ineffective and he continued to suffer pain.

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

- asking the authorities to release 'Abed al-Rahman al-Ahmar immediately and unconditionally, as he appears to be a prisoner of conscience;
- expressing concern at reports that other Palestinian detainees have been tortured or ill-treated during interrogation, and asking the authorities to ensure that 'Abed al-Rahman al-Ahmar is well treated and given proper medical treatment;
- reminding them that while he is in custody 'Abed al-Rahman al-Ahmar has the right to access to his family.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street, PO Box 187
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem 91919

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem

Fax: + 972 2 651 2631

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Uzi Landau
Minister of Public Security
Ministry of Public Security (Police)
Kiryat Hamemshala
PO Box 18182
Jerusalem 91181

Fax: + 972 2 584 7872

Salutation: Dear Minister of Public Security

Meir Shetrit
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010
Fax: + 972 2 628 8618

Salutation: Dear Minister of Justice

Eli Yishai
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of Interior
2 Kaplan Street
PO Box 6158
Kiryat Ben Gurion
Jerusalem 91061
Fax: + 972 2 670 1628

Salutation: Dear Minister of Interior

Elyakim Rubinstein
Attorney-General
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010
Fax: + 972 2 628 5438

Salutation: Dear Attorney-General

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 July 2001.