

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 15/060/2003

21 July 2003

**Further Information on UA 202/03 (MDE 15/059/2003, 10 July 2003) Fear of torture and ill-treatment/detention without charge. New concern: Torture and ill-treatment**

**ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES 'Abd al-Nasser Quzmar, aged 30, farmer**

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Amnesty International has received reports that 'Abd al-Nasser Quzmar has been tortured during interrogation by the Israeli General Security Services (GSS). He was arrested by the Israeli army from his home in the West Bank village of Izbat Salman on 16 June, and remains in detention without charge or trial. He is at risk of further torture and ill-treatment.

In a sworn affidavit taken on 18 July by his lawyer, 'Abd al-Nasser Quzmar stated that he was being subjected to physical and psychological torture during interrogations which continue from 7.30am until late at night, and which sometimes last for up to 20 hours:

*"They take me from my isolation cell to the interrogators with my eyes blindfolded. They then put me on a small chair which is fixed to the ground. The chair is extremely small which makes it difficult for me to sit, since I have had a disc problem for some time. They then tie my hands behind me to the bottom of the chair so that they are stretched out. I am unable to move from this painful position for hours on end.*

*"At this point, they remove the blindfold from my eyes and begin the interrogation. The interrogation is very difficult because of the shabeh [physical position] and the psychological pressure I am under from the swearing and continuous threats to demolish my home and turn out my family. Occasionally there are also threats to arrest my wife and expel my children as well as cursing and shouting. They don't undo my handcuffs except when I go to the toilet or eat.*

*"Three days ago... the interrogator put pictures of my family in front of me and started to threaten that they would turn them (my family) out onto the street and that the army would destroy my house. He said that the army were just waiting for permission from him to demolish my house if I didn't confess to what he wanted."*

In his statement, 'Abd al-Nasser Quzmar also complained about the poor detention conditions:

*"I am given 3 meals a day, although the quality of the food is very poor and I don't usually eat anything except a piece of bread and occasionally an egg in the morning. I currently live alone in an isolation cell of 2m x 2m which has a wash basin and a toilet. The door of the cell shuts like a refrigerator door and there are no windows, the only ventilation comes from two pipes. There is also a faint yellow light in the room which hurts my eyes. I am only allowed to shower once every 5 days and they won't allow me to shave my face or cut my nails."*

'Abd al-Nasser Quzmar's family is still unable to visit him in detention due to the restrictions placed on the movement of Palestinians from the West Bank.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Hebrew or your own language:**

- expressing concern at 'Abd al-Nasser Quzmar's claims that he has been subjected to torture and ill-treatment during lengthy interrogation sessions at Petah Tikva detention centre;

- calling on the Israeli authorities to ensure that 'Abd al-Nasser Quzmar and all detainees are humanely treated in detention, according to international standards;
- calling for the Israeli authorities to investigate the torture allegations, to make the results of the investigation public, and to bring to justice anyone who has ordered or carried out torture or ill-treatment;
- calling for the immediate release of 'Abd al-Nasser Quzmar if he is not to be promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- expressing concern that the family of 'Abd al-Nasser Quzmar is unable to visit him, and asking the Israeli authorities to ensure that all detainees have access to their families.

**APPEALS TO:**

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon,  
Office of the Prime Minister  
3 Kaplan Street, P O Box 187  
Jerusalem 91919, Israel

**Telegram:** Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel

**Fax:** + 972 2 6512631 / 6705475

**Telex:** 25279 MPRES IL

**E-mail:** rohm@pmo.gov.il / pm\_eng@pmo.gov.il

**Salutation:** Dear Prime Minister

Minister of Justice Yosef Lapid  
Ministry of Justice  
29 Salah al-Din Street  
Jerusalem 91010, Israel

**Telegram:** Justice Minister, Jerusalem, Israel

**Fax:** + 972 2 6285438

**E-mail:** sar@justice.gov.il

**Salutation:** Dear Minister

Major General Menachem Finkelstein  
Judge Advocate General  
Israeli Defence Forces  
6 David Elazar Street  
Hakirya  
Tel Aviv, Israel

**Telegram:** Judge Advocate General, Tel Aviv, Israel

**Fax:** + 972 3 5694370

**Salutation:** Dear Major General

**COPIES TO:** Diplomatic representatives of Israel/Occupied Territories accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 September 2003.