

PUBLIC

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UA 252/98 Fear for safety / Possible extrajudicial  
executions

21 September 1998

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND  
THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY Israeli civilians - Fear for safety  
'Imad 'Awadallah - Possible extrajudicial  
Adel 'Awadallah executions

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On 10 September 1998, the Israel Defence Force (IDF) reported that it had killed 'Imad 'Awadallah and his brother Adel 'Awadallah, who were both wanted by Israel for their alleged involvement in attacks on Israeli civilians through the armed wing of *Hamas*. Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Israeli civilians. Following the deaths of Adel and 'Imad 'Awadallah, Shaykh Ahmad Yassin, the spiritual leader of *Hamas*, threatened that *Hamas* would carry out killings against civilians, stating: "We are obliged to act as they act with us, by attacking civilians."

The circumstances in which the two men were killed remain unclear and Israel's High Court has imposed restrictions on reporting the incident. According to a statement issued by the Israeli authorities, the IDF received a report of noise of gunfire and explosions on 10 September. Members of the IDF discovered 'Imad and Adel 'Awadallah hiding in a house in Taybeh, Hebron district and, after storming the house, killed them. The Israel authorities have refused to release the men's bodies and have buried them in Israel.

Amnesty International is concerned that the IDF may have extrajudicially executed 'Imad and Adel 'Awadallah. In the past, Israel has carried out extrajudicial executions against persons accused of participating in attacks on Israeli civilians.

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

**To Israel:**

- calling for a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the circumstances of the killing of 'Imad and Adel 'Awadallah;
- calling for the results of such an investigation to be made public;
- calling for an autopsy of the bodies of 'Imad and 'Adel 'Awadallah to be conducted by independent experts.

**APPEALS TO:**

Benyamin Netanyahu  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
3 Kaplan Street  
Hakirya, Jerusalem 91007  
Israel

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel**

**Faxes: + 972 3 691 7915**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

General Yitzhak Mordechai  
Minister of Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
7 'A' Street, Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel  
**Telegrams: Defence Minister, Tel Aviv, Israel**  
**Faxes: + 972 3 697 6218**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

diplomatic representatives of Israel accredited to your country.

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

**To Hamas:**

- stating that the deliberate and arbitrary killing of civilians can never be justified;
- calling for *Hamas* to respect international humanitarian law and to refrain from conducting attacks on civilians.

**APPEALS TO:**

Dr Mahmud Zahhar

Islamic Resistance Movement (*Hamas*)

Gaza

Palestinian Authority

**Telegrams: Mahmud Zahhar, Hamas, Gaza, Palestinian Authority**

**Faxes: + 972 7 286 5288 (ask to send a fax)**

**Salutation: Dear Dr Zahhar**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 November 1998.

**" Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. "**

Article

3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>