

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 15/084/2001

18 September 2001

**Further information on UA 234/01 (MDE 15/082/2001, 14 September 2001) -  
Torture/legal concern/possible prisoner of conscience**

**ISRAEL/OTDaoud al-Dir'awi, human rights defender, 27 years old**

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Daoud al-Dir'awi has apparently been tortured during intensive interrogation by the Israeli General Security Services (GSS) at Shikma Prison, Ashkelon. The Military court extended his detention for a further 25 days on 13 September. Amnesty International is concerned that he may face further torture and ill-treatment during this extended GSS investigation.

He was apparently tortured from the time of his arrest on 10 September until the morning of 18 September, when he was visited by two lawyers from the Palestinian human rights organization Al-Haq.

Daoud al-Dir'awi told the lawyers that for much of that time he had been kept seated in a chair with his hands and feet handcuffed to the back (a form of torture known as *Shabeh*). As is common, this was combined with sleep deprivation. The GSS accused Daoud al-Dir'awi of membership of the military wings of both Islamic *Jihad* and the Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). He denies these accusations, and he has not been charged.

His wife, also a lawyer, tried to visit him, but was sent away after waiting three hours at the prison. GSS officers brought Daoud al-Dir'awi to watch his wife leaving the prison and told him they would arrest her.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Daoud al-Dir'awi works for the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights. He was arrested at the Allenby Bridge crossing point between the West Bank and Jordan on 10 September.

Amnesty International are concerned at reports it has received of Palestinians being tortured and ill-treated in Israeli prisons and detention centres. It appears that Daoud al-Dir'awi's detention may be part of a pattern: at least five Palestinian human rights defenders have been arrested over the last five months.

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

- asking the authorities to release Daoud al-Dir'awi immediately and unconditionally, as he appears to be a prisoner of conscience, arrested solely for his work in defence of human rights;
- expressing concern that Daoud al-Dir'awi has been tortured during interrogation and that other Palestinian detainees have been tortured or ill-treated during interrogation, and asking the authorities to ensure that he is treated in accordance with international standards;
- calling for an independent investigation into the torture allegations, with the results made public and the perpetrators brought to justice;
- reminding the Israeli authorities that they are a party to the Convention against Torture;
- reminding the Israeli authorities that while he is in custody Daoud al-Dir'awi has the right to receive visits from his family.

**APPEALS TO:**

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon  
Office of the Prime Minister  
3 Kaplan Street, PO Box 187  
Kiryat Ben-Gurion  
Jerusalem 91919, Israel  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel**  
**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, Israel  
**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, Israel  
**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, Israel  
**Fax: + 972 2 670 1628**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister of Interior**

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

**COPIES TO:**

Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights  
Al-Isral St  
Mukhmas Trading Center  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, PO B 2264  
Jerusalem, Israel  
**Fax: + 972 2 298 7211**

and 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 30 October 2001.