

PUBLIC

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UA 67/03 Incommunicado detention/fear of torture/legal concerns/  
medical concern

7 March 2003

JORDAN 'Umar Masa' ad Buhayri (m), aged 37

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'Umar Masa' ad Buhayri, an Austrian resident, is being held in incommunicado detention at an undisclosed location in Jordan. He was arrested on 12 January and has not been seen or heard from since. Amnesty International fears that he may be held at one of the General Intelligence Detention (GID) centres where detainees are at risk of torture and ill-treatment.

'Umar Masa' ad Buhayri, a computer store manager who suffers from a stomach ulcer, was flying back from Sudan to Vienna via Amman airport where he was arrested after being apprehended by security officers immediately on his arrival. It is not known whether any charges have been brought against him. The Jordan authorities have reportedly not allowed him access to a lawyer, his embassy representatives or to his family. The authorities have released no information of pending trial proceedings against him.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International has documented reports of torture and ill-treatment at the GID centres in Jordan while detainees are held incommunicado for up to two months after their arrest. Torture including beatings, sleep deprivation and physical suspension has been reportedly used to extract "confessions" from detainees.

The Jordan authorities are obliged under international human rights treaties and standards to ensure that detainees are brought promptly before judicial authorities and allowed access to their families and lawyers. Article 9 (3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Jordan is a state party, stipulates "[Anyone] arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officers authorized by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or they shall be released. It shall not be the general rule that persons awaiting trial shall be detained in custody, but release may be subject to guarantees to appear for trial, at any other stage of the judicial proceedings, and, should occasion arise, for execution of the judgement." The United Nations Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 9 December 1988, states, in Principle 15, that "...communication of the detained or imprisoned person with the outside world, and in particular his family or counsel, shall not be denied for more than a matter of days".

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

- expressing grave concern over the incommunicado detention of 'Umar Masa' ad Buhayri;
- calling on the authorities to immediately reveal the whereabouts of 'Umar Buhayri and to give assurances that he is not being tortured or ill treated;
- calling on the authorities to abide by its commitments under Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and either charge 'Umar Masa' ad Buhayri with a recognisably criminal offence and give him a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards for fair trials or set him free immediately;
- urging the authorities to allow 'Umar Buhayri immediate and unrestricted access to his relatives, government representative, legal counsel and any medical aid he may need for his stomach ulcer, a condition which is likely to be exacerbated by a long period in incommunicado detention.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

His Majesty King =Abdallah bin Hussein  
Office of H.M. the King  
Royal Palace  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Telegrams:** King >Abdallah bin Hussein, Amman, Jordan  
**Faxes:** + 962 6 462 7421  
**Salutation:** Your Majesty

General Saad Khayr  
Head of General Intelligence Department  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Fax:** + 962 6 586 4111  
**Salutation:** Dear General

Quftan al-Majali  
Minister of Interior  
Ministry of Interior  
PO Box 100  
Amman  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**Fax** + 962 6 560 6908  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

**COPIES TO:**  
diplomatic representatives of Jordan accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 April 2003.