

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 21/10/97

9 October 1997

Further information on UA 287/97 (MDE 21/08/97, 29 August 1997) -
"Disappearance" / Fear for Safety / Fear of Torture

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY Shafiq Muhammad Hassan 'Abd al-Wahhab, 52, retired
Inspector of the Department of Land
Administration in the West Bank, father of five
children

Shafiq Muhammad Hassan 'Abd al-Wahhab remains "disappeared" more than three months after he was reportedly taken into custody by the Palestinian military intelligence (*istikhbarat*) on 21 June 1997.

It is now believed that he is being held at the *istikhbarat*'s detention centre at its Ramallah headquarters for questioning concerning his work as Inspector of the Department of Land Administration in the West Bank during Israeli occupation.

The *istikhbarat*, however, continues to deny that Shafiq 'Abd al-Wahhab is in its custody. Amnesty International remains seriously concerned for his safety.

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

- expressing deep concern that the whereabouts of Shafiq Muhammad Hassan 'Abd al-Wahhab remain unknown more than three months after he was reportedly arrested by *istikhbarat*;
- noting reports that he is held in *istikhbarat*'s detention centre in Ramallah and asking the authorities to confirm if this is the case;
- calling on the authorities to immediately inform Shafiq 'Abd al-Wahhab's family of his whereabouts, to ensure that he is well treated, and to grant him access to his family, lawyer and to an independent doctor;
- calling for Shafiq 'Abd al-Wahhab to be released unless he is promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence and given a fair trial in accordance with international standards.

APPEALS TO:

President Yasser Arafat
Al-Muntada, Gaza
Palestinian Authority

Faxes: +972 7 822 365 (if voice, ask to send a fax)

Telegrams: President Arafat, Gaza, Palestinian Authority

Salutation: Dear President Arafat

Minister of Justice Mr Freih Abu Meddein
Ministry of Justice
Abu Khadra Building
Omar al-Mukhtar Street
Gaza, Palestinian Authority

Faxes: +972 7 822 236

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Gaza, Palestinian Authority

Salutation: Dear Minister

General Musa Arafat

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Head of Military Intelligence
Ramallah, Palestinian Authority

Faxes: +972 2 998 6579

Telegrams: General Arafat, Istikhbarat, Ramallah, Palestinian Authority

Salutation: Dear General Arafat

COPIES TO:

The Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
PO Box 54627
Jerusalem
Via Israel

Faxes: +972 2 998 7536

and to diplomatic representatives of the Palestinian Authority accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 November 1997.