

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 21/21/00

UA 245/00 Incommunicado detention/ Unacknowledged detention/ Legal concern /
Fear of torture or ill-treatment 17 August 2000

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY
Nayef Hamadneh, student
Iyad Hamadneh
Hani Rawabjeh
'Ala Shuli
Fallah Taher Nada, aged 45
'Ala Rimawi
Maher 'Awdeh, merchant
Wajih Ahmad 'Arman

The eight men named above have been held incommunicado for nearly a month, some of them in unacknowledged detention. Amnesty International fears that they may be being subjected to torture or ill-treatment.

All eight are believed to be in the custody of the Preventive Security Service (PSS). They were among a dozen Islamists arrested in the West Bank in mid-July, some of whom were allegedly ill-treated when they were arrested.

Four of the detainees are from Ramallah district. Three of these - Falah Taher Nada, reportedly arrested on 19 July, 'Ala Rimawi and Maher 'Awdeh, both reportedly arrested on 21 July - are believed to be held in a PSS detention centre in Junayd prison, in Nablus. Wajih Ahmad 'Arman, is believed to be in the main PSS detention centre in Baytunia.

The other four are reportedly in secret detention; their families have not even been told that they are in custody. The four, from 'Asira al-Shamaliya, were reportedly arrested by the PSS on 15 July. Among them was Nayef Hamadneh, an accountancy student at al-Najah National University. However, the PSS and the General Intelligence, the other Palestinian security force which frequently detains political prisoners, have officially denied having them in custody.

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

- calling on the Palestinian Authority to immediately disclose where Nayef Hamadneh, Iyad Hamadneh, Hani Rawabjeh and 'Ala Shuli are detained;
- seeking assurances that all eight men have not and will not be tortured or ill-treated in detention;
- calling for them to be released immediately if they are not to be promptly charged with recognizably criminal offences and tried according to international standards for fair trial;
- asking that they are all given immediate access to their families and to their lawyers;
- calling for an end to the use of incommunicado detention by all branches of the Palestinian security forces.

APPEALS TO (please note that three of the fax numbers provided are telephone lines and may be difficult to get through to):

President Yasser Arafat
Palestinian Authority
Office of the President
The Beach Forum
Gaza City
Palestinian Authority

Telegrams: President Arafat, Palestinian Authority, Gaza
Faxes: + 972 7 282 2365 (when voice answers, please ask for fax tone)
Salutation: Dear President Arafat

Colonel Jibril al-Rajub
Head of the Preventive Security Service (West Bank)
Jericho
Palestinian Authority

Telegrams: Colonel al-Rajub, Palestinian Authority, Jericho
Faxes: + 972 2 290 1801 (when voice answers, please ask for fax tone)
Salutation: Dear Colonel al-Rajub

Zakaria Musleh
Director of Interrogation Centres in the West Bank
Preventive Security Service Detention Centre
Baytunia
Palestinian Authority

Faxes: +972 2 290 1801 (when voice answers, please ask for fax tone)
Salutation: Dear Mr Musleh

COPIES TO:

Qadura Fares
Chairman of the Human Rights and Monitoring Committee
Palestinian Legislative Council
P O Box 1930 Ramallah
Palestinian Authority

and to representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)
accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 September 2000.