

URGENT ACTION

PALESTINIAN LEGISLATOR RELEASED

The Speaker of the Palestinian parliament, Aziz Dweik, was released on 19 July after spending six months detained without trial by the Israeli authorities

Aziz Dweik was freed from Ofer prison on the afternoon of 19 July when his administrative detention order, issued in January, expired.

Aziz Dweik was arrested on 19 January while crossing a military checkpoint near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. On 24 January, he appeared in court where a judge handed him a six-month administrative detention order signed by a military commander.

There are around 20 Palestinian legislators being held in administrative detention, raising concerns that they may have been targeted for arrest because of their political activities. Neither Aziz Dweik nor his lawyer was ever provided with the evidence on which his administrative detention order was based.

Aziz Dweik was arrested previously in June 2006 soon after being elected to the Palestinian Legislative Committee (PLC) as a representative from the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform bloc. He was convicted of "belonging to an illegal organization" and sentenced to three years in prison. He was released in 2009.

Administrative detention is a procedure under which detainees are held without charge or trial for periods of up to six months, which can be renewed indefinitely. Detainees are held on the basis of "secret evidence" which the Israeli military authorities claim cannot be revealed for security reasons. Hence the "secret evidence" on which the military authorities base their decision to issue an administrative detention order is not made available to detainees or their lawyers, and detainees cannot challenge the reasons for their detention. Read more at:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE15/026/2012/en>

We will continue to campaign against the use of administrative detention by the Israeli authorities. Thank you to all those who took action. No further appeals are required from the UA network.

This is the first update of UA 23/12. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE15/002/2012/en>

Name: Aziz Dweik

Gender: male

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