

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 175/08 (EUR 45/008/2008, 19 June 2008) Health concern

UNITED KINGDOM

Mahmoud Abu Rideh

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Palestinian refugee Mahmoud Abu Rideh, who is the subject of a "control order" imposed by the UK government, was discharged from hospital on 7 July. However, his physical and mental health remains poor. He has returned to his home in London.

On 23 June, before his discharge from hospital, a High Court judge had ordered that the obligation that Mahmoud Abu Rideh should report daily to a police station should be lifted. This obligation had been particularly difficult for Mahmoud Abu Rideh to comply with; a consultant psychiatrist who examined him described it as being "the obligation [which] seems to be having the most deleterious effects on his mental health". The judge in the High Court hearing described the obligation as appearing to be "the major factor, the Control Order itself apart, behind his current poor mental state".

Under the terms of his amended control order, Mahmoud Abu Rideh is required to telephone a monitoring company three times a day, instead of twice, as had previously been the case. He still has to stay inside his house for 12 hours a day, and remains subject to a number of other restrictions, including a requirement that anyone visiting his house while he is there must have prior approval from the Home Office to do so.

Between 21 and 31 July, the High Court heard the latest appeal by Mahmoud Abu Rideh against the continued imposition of a control order on him. Part of this hearing took place in secret sessions of the court, from which Mahmoud Abu Rideh and his lawyers were excluded, and in which the court considered information which neither he nor his lawyers are allowed to see.

On 8 August the High Court judge who had heard the appeal ordered that, in order for the hearing to be fair, the UK authorities would need to give Mahmoud Abu Rideh more information about their grounds for believing that he is or has been involved in terrorism-related activity. Both sides have been given leave to appeal against aspects of this decision; the appeal will not be heard until October 2008 at the earliest. In the meantime the amended control order against Mahmoud Abu Rideh remains in force.

**Given the improvement, however limited, in Mahmoud Abu Rideh's situation, no further action is needed at the moment from the UA network. Thanks to all who sent appeals.**