

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 15/054/2001

14 June 2001

Further information on UA 124/01 (MDE 15/044/2001, 21 May 2001) - Detention without charge or trial/solitary confinement

ISRAEL/OTSamer Fawzi 'Awartani, aged 34, hospital administrator

An administrative detention order has been served on Samer Fawzi 'Awartani which allows the authorities to detain him without charge or trial until 9 September 2001. It may then be renewed.

The order was issued on 10 June, on the grounds that Samer Fawzi 'Awartani was "involved in activities which endanger the security of the area". Samer Fawzi 'Awartani denies the allegation. The order will be reviewed by a judge on 17 June. His lawyer has submitted an appeal against the order to the Military Appeals Court, which is currently pending.

Samer Fawzi 'Awartani was arrested on 7 May 2001, and interrogated until 10 June. During this time he was held with Palestinian "collaborators", and given a fake administrative detention order in an attempt to persuade him to provide information about his political activities. He is now held in isolation in Megiddo prison, in Israel. Samer Fawzi 'Awartani now has access to his lawyer, and it is believed that he will be allowed family visits.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Samer Fawzi 'Awartani was arrested by Israeli security forces when he returned from a medical conference in Oxford, England. He was initially held in Petah Tikvah detention centre, in Israel, and denied access to his lawyer until 29 May.

The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has said that administrative detention as used in Israel constitutes arbitrary detention and has stated that "individual liberty cannot be sacrificed for the government's inability either to collect evidence or to present it in an appropriate form".

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

- asking for Samer Fawzi 'Awartani to be released immediately, if he is not to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence and given a fair and prompt trial;
- urging that he be allowed out of solitary confinement, which could amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street, PO Box 187
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem 91919, via Israel

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem

Fax: + 972 2 651 2631

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Uzi Landau

Minister of Public Security
Ministry of Public Security (Police)
Kiryat Hamemshala
PO Box 18182
Jerusalem 91181, via Israel
Fax: + 972 2 584 7872
Salutation: Dear Minister of Public Security

Meir Shetrit
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010, via Israel
Fax: + 972 2 628 8618
Salutation: Dear Minister of Justice

Eli Yishai
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of Interior
2 Kaplan Street
PO Box 6158
Kiryat Ben Gurion
Jerusalem 91061, via Israel
Fax: + 972 2 670 1628
Salutation: Dear Minister of Interior

Elyakim Rubinstein
Attorney-General
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010, via Israel
Fax: + 972 2 628 5438
Salutation: Dear Attorney-General

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Israel accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 July 2001.