

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 212/01 (MDE 15/079/2001, 24 August 2001) - Fear of torture/ legal concern

ISRAELMuna 'Ubayd (f), 30, teacher

Akram 'Ubayd (m), 42, bank employee (her brother)

Akram 'Ubayd was released on 4 September and his sister Muna 'Ubayd was released two days later on 6 September.

Muna 'Ubayd and Akram 'Ubayd, who are Palestinian citizens of Israel, were arrested on 10 and 12 August respectively by the General Security Service. They were held in incommunicado detention in the detention centre at Petah Tikvah.

According to information received by Amnesty International, Muna 'Ubayd was charged with aiding an enemy and having contacts with a foreign agent (*Hizbullah*, a Lebanese political party whose military wing is fighting against Israeli forces in South Lebanon). While being interrogated she was verbally abused and threatened with physical ill-treatment, including threats of sexual abuse.

The two are now under house arrest for five days. Muna 'Ubayd has to pay 30,000 NIS (nearly US\$ 7,000) bail and is not allowed to enter areas under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority or to leave the country for six months. Akram 'Ubayd is not allowed to return to his work at Bank Hapoalim for ten days. A five year gagging order has been placed on both cases in an attempt to prevent them from talking to journalists or others.

Akram 'Ubayd and Muna 'Ubayd have thanked Amnesty International, whose help they believe secured their release.

Thanks to all those who sent appeals. No further action is required.