

PUBLIC

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**Further information on UA 132/01 (MDE 15/047/2001, 31 May 2001) and follow-ups (MDE 15/051/2001, 7 June 2001; MDE 15/053/2001, 13 June 2001; MDE 15/062/2001, 4 July 2001; MDE 15/068/2001, 25 July 2001 - Prisoner of conscience/detention without charge or trial/torture/ill-treatment**

**ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES 'Abed al-Rahman al-Ahmar (m), aged 32, human rights defender**

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Prisoner of conscience 'Abed al-Rahman al-Ahmar was released on 23 May when his administrative detention order expired. He had spent one year in administrative detention. According to his lawyer, the Israeli authorities "admitted that they had no evidence against 'Abed to justify his detention".

On his release, 'Abed was apparently left at the Qalandia checkpoint, still handcuffed, without money or identity papers, just outside Ramallah, in the West Bank. It was too late at night for him to get to his home in Bethlehem, and he had to spend the night in Qalandia. The next day, police stopped the taxi he was travelling to Bethlehem in, checked 'his ID number and detained him again, but released him shortly afterwards.

According to his lawyer, 'Abed "intends to return to his work in human rights and work to bring an end to the use of administrative detention". He has asked that his thanks be passed on to all those who supported and worked towards his release.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

No criminal charges are filed against people in administrative detention, and there is no intention of bringing them to trial. Each administrative detention order specifies the date until which the detainee is to be held, but the order is frequently renewed when or before it expires. This process can be continued indefinitely. Hundreds of Palestinians have had administrative detention orders served on them in the past few weeks.

**Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. No further action is required by the UA network.**