

EXTERNAL

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UA 205/97

Prisoner of conscience/Legal concern 10 July 1997

**PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY Fathi Sabah, 43, lecturer in education at Al-Azhar  
University in Gaza**

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On 2 July 1997 Fathi Subuh, a lecturer in education at Al-Azhar University in Gaza, was arrested by members of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service. He is being held in incommunicado detention in an unknown place and has been denied access to his lawyer and his family. He has apparently not been charged with any offence.

According to the 1924 Criminal Procedure Ordinance which governs arrest procedures in Gaza, Fathi Subuh should have been brought before a magistrate within 48 hours of arrest. He has reportedly gone on a hunger strike protesting against his arrest. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

It is believed that Fathi Subuh was arrested for including critical questions about the management of Al-Azhar University and the Palestinian Authority in the final examinations at the university. Fathi Subuh is known to be a critic of the way the university is run.

The Security Service has confirmed his arrest but said that he was being detained for security reasons and denied that his arrest had anything to do with his university work.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Arabic, English or your own language:**

- stating that you consider Fathi Subuh to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for his alleged critical attitude towards the Palestinian Authority;
- urging that Fathi Subuh be granted immediate access to his family and lawyer and to a doctor of his choice;
- calling for his immediate and unconditional release if he is not promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offense and tried before a court which meets international standards for fair trials.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Yasser Arafat  
Palestinian Authority  
Al-Muntada  
Gaza, Palestinian Authority  
**Faxes: +972-7-822365** (ask to send a fax)  
**Telegrams: President Arafat, Palestinian Authority, Gaza**  
**Salutation: Dear President Arafat**

Minister of Justice Mr Freih Abu Meddein  
Ministry of Justice  
Abu Khadra Building  
Omar al-Mukhtar Street  
Gaza, Palestinian Authority  
**Faxes: +972-7-822236**  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Palestinian Authority, Gaza**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

The Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights (PICCR)  
Omar Mukhtar Street, Al-Shawwa Building  
Gaza  
Palestinian Authority  
**Fax: +972-7-824438**

and to diplomatic representatives of Palestinian Authority accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 August 1997.