

Network of Concerned Historians				NCH
Campaigns				
Year original	Year follow-up	Circular	Country	Names
1998		9	Palestinian Authority	Wael Ali Farraj, history student

#### *Announcement*

In the November 1998 issue of Amnesty International News, one of the appeals is for Wa'el 'Ali Farraj, a history student in Gaza, Palestinian Authority. We hope that you are able to send the recommended appeal.

#### **Detention Without Charge or Trial / Ill-Treatment - November 1998**

##### **PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY - Wa'el 'Ali Farraj**

Wa'el 'Ali Farraj, a 24-year-old history student, has been detained without charge or trial for well over two years. He was arrested on 24 April 1996 at his home in Gaza city by members of the Palestinian Authority's General Intelligence, who told his wife that he would return shortly after questioning.

During the first few days of his detention Wa'el Farraj was severely beaten and deprived of sleep and food. He was hooded throughout this period, including during mealtimes. He was then transferred to a General Intelligence detention centre and interrogated for another month.

Since June 1997 Wa'el Farraj has been held in Gaza Central Prison. He has not been charged or brought to trial. The Attorney General's office informed a relative that it could not intervene on the grounds that the case was a political one.

Over the past four years, hundreds of suspected supporters of Islamist groups have been arrested in areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority, and held for months or even years without charge or trial.

#### **Please write:**

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Wa'el Farraj if he is not to be given a fair trial consistent with international standards.
- call for an investigation into allegations that Wa'el Farraj was beaten and otherwise ill-treated in

custody.

**Send your letters to:**

President Yasser Arafat

The Palestinian Authority

al-Muntada

Gaza

Palestinian Authority

("via Israel" if writing from the United States)

Fax: 972 7 282 2365

[Source: Amnesty International News (vol. 28 no. 6) page 7 - there also a photograph of Wa'el 'Ali Farraj.]