

Network of Concerned Historians				NCH
Campaigns				
Year original	Year follow-up	Circular	Country	Names
1999		15	Palestinian Authority	Abdulsittar Qassem, historian, a.o.
	2000			<i>follow-up 2</i>
	1999			<i>follow-up 1</i>

*Announcement:*

Amnesty International (AI) reports that our colleague Dr. Abdulsittar Qassem has been released on 6 January. Thank you very much for your appeals.

[Please note that NCH action #15 and NCH update #15bis were based upon information issued by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). AI was the source for the AAAS update].

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL URGENT ACTION FOLLOW UP**

10 January 2000

Further information on UA 319/99 issued 15 December 1999 and re-issued 20 December 1999

Prisoners of conscience / Legal concern / Fear of torture or ill-treatment

**PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY**

Dr 'Abd al-Sattar Qassem, aged 50, Professor of Political Science

[note from NCH: this person was called Dr Abdulsittar Qassem, professor of history, in the original AAAS text: see NCH #15 and #15bis.]

Ahmad Shahrudin, aged 58, retired teacher

Dr Yasser Fayege Abu Safieh, aged 45, physician

Dr 'Afif Suleiman al-Judeh, aged 45, physician

Dr 'Abd al-Rahim Kittani, aged 47

Dr 'Adel Samara, aged 57, economist

Ahmad Qatamesh, aged 46, writer and political activist

Adnan Odeh, director of the research unit of the Palestinian Legislative Council

Dr 'Abd al-Sattar Qassem and Ahmad Shahrudin were released on 6 January 2000. They were both required to sign an undertaking to appear in court if requested, and to pay 50,000 Jordanian Dinars (about \$US 75,000) if they failed to do so.

Dr 'Abd al-Sattar Qassem thanked Amnesty International for campaigning for his release.

The Palestinian Authority had arrested them and the other six academics and writers named above in November 1999, after they signed a statement criticizing the Palestinian political leadership. Amnesty International considered them to be prisoners of conscience. The other six were released on 19 December 1999.

No further action is required by the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals on behalf of these prisoners of conscience.