



## Middle East Studies Association of North America, Inc.

The University of Arizona · 1232 North Cherry Avenue · Tucson, Arizona 85721

September 19, 1994

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin  
Office of the Prime Minister  
3 Kaplan Street  
Jerusalem 91919  
Israel

Dear Prime Minister:

- The Committee on Academic Freedom of the Middle East Studies Association is concerned about news of the detention of Birzeit University student, Abed Qattawi, one of the two key organizers (the other being Muhammed Ata) of the Palestine International Festival who were arrested by Israeli military authorities on August 23, 1994. We understand that this is not the first such instance of student detention by the military. Our preliminary information about the current case is sufficiently disturbing that we wish promptly to register our concern.

The Middle East Studies Association comprises 2300 academics worldwide who teach and conduct research on the Middle East and North Africa. The association publishes the respected International Journal of Middle East Studies and is committed to ensuring respect for the principles of academic freedom and human rights throughout the region.

We respectfully request you to provide us with information as soon as possible about the reasons for the detention of this student and the nature of the criminal charges -- if any -- being brought against him. We further call upon you to investigate to ensure that this is not a case of a student being detained solely by reason of his political opinions and cultural activities. In the event that this is so, we call for Mr. Qattawi's (and Mr. Ata's) immediate release.

Respectfully,

Anne H. Betteridge  
Executive Director

cc: Brigadier General Ilan Shiff, Judge Advocate General  
Brigadier General Shaul Mofaz, Commander of the West Bank  
Colonel Moshe Rosenberg, Legal Adviser for the Central Command  
Judge Yosef Harish, Attorney General  
Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich