

**The State of Israel
Ministry of Justice**

The Office of the Attorney General
Jerusalem, 11 July 2007

Our file no. 2007-0004-10331

To:

Attorney Rachela Er'el
The Legal Department
The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel
POB 4634
Jerusalem 91046

Dear Ms. Er'el,

Re: Your complaint of 11 April 2007
Demand to prohibit the use of members of an interrogee's family as a method of applying pressure in interrogation

Following your above mentioned complaint, we asked the General Security Service (GSS) for its view of this matter and they informed us that they re-examined the issues raised in your letter of complaint. Following their re-evaluation, the following principles were clarified and emphasized:

- A. The detention of a family member of a detainee is permissible when it arises from the same criminal circumstances and when there is probable cause for the arrest of the family member. In such a circumstance the GSS does not see any reason why one family member should not know of the arrest of the other or why they should not encounter one another.
- B. As a rule, in the event that a family member of a detainee is not under arrest, and there is no cause for the arrest of the family member there is no room to create the impression vis-à-vis the interrogee that his family member is under arrest.

These principles are acceptable to the Attorney General and accurately reflect, in our opinion, the current law. Accordingly and in the context of the case of Mr. Mahmoud Sueti, the subject of your complaint, the GSS and, of course, the Attorney General agree that it was not appropriate to take such action so as to create the impression that Mr. Sueti's father was under arrest.

Signed: Raz Nezri, Adv.
Senior Assistant to the Attorney General

CC: The Attorney General, GSS