



4323 Rosedale Avenue  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814  
(301) 907-0947

Contact: Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad, Ph.D.  
301-907-0947

### ISRAELI TORTURE OF AMERICAN CITIZEN HIGHLIGHTS PROBLEMS OF OSLO AND WYE AGREEMENTS

Bethesda, MD (Nov. 9, 1998). A statement issued today by an Islamic think tank which is part of a coalition campaigning to initiate public interest in the Israeli use of "mild torture" to extract confessions cites the case of such torture against American citizen Hashem Mufleh as evidence of the problems of the Oslo and Wye agreements. "Israeli contempt for the International Law has long been seen in policies which violate the Geneva Conventions such as illegal settlements, building demolitions, and deportations of the indigenous population," said Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad President of the Minaret of Freedom Institute. The rest of the statement reads as follows:

"The willingness of the American government to tolerate such atrocities, committed even against our own citizens feeds perceptions in the Muslim world that America is hypocritical in its response to uncivilized behavior elsewhere. There is a widespread view that the purpose of Oslo, reinforced by Wye, is to insure that the Palestinian Authority serve as a subcontractor for such Israeli repugnant policies in the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, in the name of 'Israeli security.' When the Palestinian authority engages in such practices, supporters of Israel can have it both ways. They can condemn 'Arab savagery' and benefit from it at the same time. The American administration may claim that "quiet diplomacy" is the best way to deal with such torture in the case of 'good friend' like Israel, but how can the American media, which thrives on front page coverage of such cases anywhere else in the world credibly explain their silence at this time? What conclusions do they think Muslims will draw?"

The Minaret of Freedom Institute (MFI) is located in the Washington, DC area and is dedicated to research and educational efforts regarding Islamic law and Muslim history. MFI's purposes are summarized in their brochure as to "counter distortions and misconceptions about Islamic law and practice; demonstrate the Islamic origins of [certain] modern values ...; expose both American and Islamic world Muslims to free market thought; [and] advance the status of Muslim peoples maligned by a hostile environment in the West and oppressed by repressive political regimes in the East." Dr. Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad is co-editor with Ahmed Yousef of *Islam and the West: A Dialog* (Springfield, VA: UASR, 1998).