

The detention of Sari Nusseibeh

*From Professor Jonathan Barnes
and others*

Sir: Dr Sari Nusseibeh, a lecturer in philosophy at Bir Zeit University, has been arrested without charge by the Israeli authorities on 29 January (Report, 31 January). He is well known as a Palestinian leader of moderate views, who has on occasion suffered at the hands of other Palestinians for his moderation and his willingness to maintain contact with Israelis.

His arrest at his own home — to which he had been confined since the beginning of the war by the continuous Israeli curfew in the occupied territories — and the absence of any charge or prospect of trial are bound to raise the gravest suspicions regarding the motives of the Israeli authorities and to damage the respect and goodwill which their moderation has won for Israel in recent weeks.

We, philosophers and colleagues, call on the Israeli government either to charge him and put him on trial, or to release him.

Yours faithfully,

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