PAUL SIMON
ILLINOIS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

COMMITTEES:
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
JUDICIARY
FOREIGN RELATIONS
BUDGET
INDIAN AFFAIRS

July 29, 1993

Mr. Nick Ghusein
9121 Kopping Lane
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

Dear Mr. Ghusein:

Thank you for contacting me about the ten Palestinians sentenced to death in Kuwait.

I understand your concern that the ten men may have been coerced into confessing to collaborating with Iraqi forces during the occupation of Kuwait. I share your belief that anybody accused of a crime must be given a fair trial in accordance with international standards.

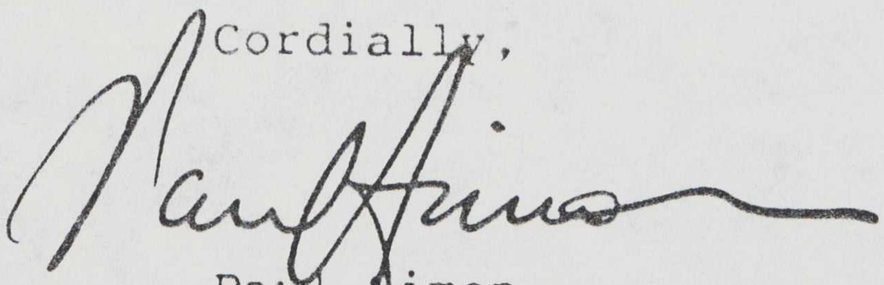
My staff has investigated this case, and we have been in contact with both Amnesty International and the Department of State. My office has been informed by State Department officials that the Palestinian men did have counsel, and the counsel was present during the trial, in accordance with Kuwaiti law. But allegations of coercion and lack of due process have led the State Department to revisit the matter, and they have asked our embassy in Kuwait to investigate these charges more fully.

I have also sent a letter to our Ambassador in Kuwait, conveying my concerns about the pending death sentences and asking him to carefully investigate the claims made by your group and others. I will keep you informed about his response, as well as any further contacts I have with the State Department in this matter.

Again, thank you for giving me the benefit of your views.

My best wishes.

Cordially,



Paul Simon
U. S. Senator

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