

Hamas member dies in Egyptian jail

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Palestinian Islamist Hamas movement announced Tuesday charged that the brother of one of the Palestinian group's chief spokesmen was tortured to death in an Egyptian prison.

"Yusef Abu Zuhri, 38, the brother of Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri, was martyred in an Egyptian prison as a result of torture," Fawzi Barhum, the other main spokesman for the group, told AFP.

He added Abu Zuhri, a Hamas member, had been arrested by Egyptian security services in April but declined to provide further details.

Sami Abu Zuhri said his brother died from weeks of "brutal torture in an Egyptian prison" that led to severe bleeding.

He added his brother was briefly treated at Egypt's Alexandria University hospital but was returned to his cell before the bleeding had been stanchied.

Egypt has been brokering Palestinian unity talks for several months and has been trying to get Hamas and their secular Fatah party rivals to sign on to a reconciliation agreement later this month.

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