

Phone conversation

	The Text
Journalist	Doctor, you are also faulted for appointing your nephew as a personal companion on a temporary contract. Is this correct?
Amal Hamad	My dear, in all honesty, my nephew has been my companion since my days in the Revolutionary Council when I was at the Central Commission. He is the same person and hasn't changed. It is my right to have a companion who counts "as family," as they say. It has to be a person who is family at least. You know what it means for a woman to have a companion: It has to be a person close to the family.
Journalist	Doctor, you are supposed to be a strong woman who fought for the cause: You should not have this perspective.
Amal Hamad	This young man has been with me for more than eight years: I didn't appoint him today or yesterday nor a year or two ago. He has been with me in my long journey for eight years. If the case is as you are presenting it, in the end I should have appointed him officially after eight years. He works by a contract even today. He has worked with a member of the Central Commission for eight years, and she could not appoint him... This is a problem as well. I will tell you something else: I am to be blamed because I did not accept to appoint him.
Journalist	He has a contract with a salary that is better than any employee's salary, though.
Amal Hamad	Now let me tell you something: May God help all our people and our people in Gaza!
Journalist	Of course! Doctor, people have the right to
Amal Hamad	When someone has been working as a companion for eight years, he deserves an official appointment at least and not a contract. He is not officially appointed; he is working only by a contract. This means that once my work is done, his contract ends and that is the problem.