

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/48/96

11 July 1996

Further information on UA 168/96 (MDE 15/47/96, 4 July 1996) - Incommunicado Detention / Fear of Torture or ill-treatment

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON'Ali Diya, aged 44, dentist and journalist

'Ali Diya, a Lebanese journalist working with *Agence France Presse* (AFP), is still being held in Kishon Prison in Israel. He was arrested on 13 June 1996 by the South Lebanon Army, an organization that shares control of the Israeli occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon with the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF).

The Israeli authorities have issued a statement saying that 'Ali Diya is under suspicion of aiding the Shi'a Hizbollah military.

On 8 July 'Ali Diya's detention was extended for a further 10 days by a court in Akka. On 9 July, after being held incommunicado for almost one month, he was allowed to see a lawyer for the first time. He apparently said that he had not been ill-treated.

Amnesty International has still not received a reply to its letter to the Israeli Government of 24 June 1996 in which the organization asked to be informed of 'Ali Diya's legal status and how he had come to be held by the IDF.

Amnesty International is concerned about the length of time that 'Ali Diya has spent in incommunicado detention and calls on the Israeli government to either release him immediately or charge him with a recognisably criminal offence and try him before a court which meets international standards for a fair trial.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- asking for clarification as to 'Ali Diya's legal status and how he came to be held by the IDF;
- urging that, if 'Ali Diya is not to be promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence and tried before a court which meets international standards for a fair trial, he be immediately released.

APPEALS TO:

Binyamin Netenyahu
Prime Minister
Office of The Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street
Hakirya, Jerusalem 91007, Israel
Faxes +972 3 697 7839; +972 2 664 838
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

General Yitzhak Mordecai
Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
7 'A' Street, Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel
Faxes: +972 3 697 6218
Telegrams: Defense Minister, Tel Aviv, Israel
Salutation: Dear Minister

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Professor Yaakov Neeman
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
26 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010, Israel

Faxes: +972 2 285 438

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Jerusalem, Israel

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Israel accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 August 1996.