

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/106/97

UA 395/97

Fear of Torture / Legal Concern

17 December 1997

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON Ibrahim Iskander Abu Zayd
Bulus Iskander Abu Zayd
Yvonne Swaydi (f)

On 9 December 1997, two brothers, Ibrahim Iskander Abu Zayd and Bulus Iskander Abu Zayd, and his wife, Yvonne Swaydi, were arrested by members of the Israeli intelligence services, in Jazzine, located in Israel's self-styled "security zone". They are believed to be held in Khiam Detention Centre where Amnesty International fears they may face torture or ill-treatment and prolonged detention without trial.

Khiam Detention Centre is the main South Lebanon Army (SLA) detention and interrogation centre in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon. More than 150 detainees are presently believed to be held in Khiam, some of whom have been held without charge or trial for up to 12 years. Former detainees have described systematic torture and ill-treatment including beating, whipping, application of electric shocks and dousing with hot and cold water. Detainees are routinely denied access to their lawyers.

From 1987 to 1995, detainees in Khiam Detention Centre were denied visits from both the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and their families. These conditions were reinstated on 10 September, heightening concern for the well-being of the detainees.

Although Israel asserts that it is not responsible for Khiam Detention Centre and directs all inquiries relating to it to the SLA it is, nevertheless, the occupying power in South Lebanon and therefore has ultimate responsibility.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, Arabic, French or your own language:

- urging that Ibrahim Iskander Abu Zayd, Bulus Iskander Abu Zayd and Yvonne Swaydi be granted immediate and continuing access to their families, lawyers and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
- seeking assurances that they will not be subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment;
- calling for their immediate and unconditional release if they are not to be charged with recognizable criminal offences and tried according to international standards for a fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

Binyamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street
Hakirya, Jerusalem 91007, Israel
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel
Faxes: + 972 3 691 7915
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

General Yitzhak Mordechai
Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
7 'A' Street, Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel

Telegrams: Defence Minister, Tel Aviv, Israel
Faxes: + 972 3 697 6218
Salutation: Dear Minister

General Antoine Lahad
South Lebanon Army
c/o Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
7 'A' Street

Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel
Telegrams: General Lahad, c/o Minister Defence, Tel Aviv, Israel
Faxes: + 972 3 691 6940 (write c/o Minister of Defence)
Salutation: Dear General

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 31 January 1997.