

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 18/014/2002

6 November 2002

Further information on UA 171/02 (MDE 18/008/2002, 11 June 2002) and follow-up (MDE 18/010/2002, 16 August 2002) - Fear of torture/Unfair trial/health concern

LEBANON	Ahmad Abu Ghosh (m)	]	
	Fadi Taybah (m)	]	released
	Mazyad Ghayth (m)	]	
	'Ali al-Hamawi (m)	]	
	Bilal Mahmud (m)	]	new name
	Khalid Mahmud (m)	]	new name
	Said Minawi (m)		
	Mumtaz Minawi (m)		
	Azzam Amer (m)		
	Muhammad Khaled (m)		
	Abd al-Munim Zarur (m)		
	Umar al-Rifai (m)		
	Ahmad al-Darj (m)		
	and at least 11 others		

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Amnesty International has recently learned that Ahmad Abu Ghosh, Mazyad Ghayth, Fadi Taybah and 'Ali al-Hamawi were released without charge on 20 August. They had been held for two weeks at the Ministry of Defence Detention Centre in al-Yarze and Ba'bda military intelligence detention centre near Beirut.

Fadi Taybah was reportedly tortured and ill-treated at Ba'bda military intelligence detention centre. He was allegedly severely beaten on his head, his hands and his stomach, while also being verbally abused. This torture reportedly lasted for three days. Fadi Taybah alleges he was denied food and drink for two of these days. On the third day he claims he was given a little food and a cup of water by a guard who saw him bleeding from his hands and feet. He said that during interrogation by intelligence officers, water was used to soften the soles of his feet before they were beaten with metal cables. Fadi Taybah was also allegedly tortured using a method known as the *Ballanco*. This involves the wrists being handcuffed behind the back, a rope being tied to the handcuffs and passed over a beam, so that it can be pulled and the detainee lifted off the ground.

Fadi Taybah, Ahmad Abu Ghosh, Mazyad Ghayth and 'Ali al-Hamawi were originally arrested in connection with their alleged involvement in violent confrontations between armed Sunnite Islamist activists and the Lebanese security and military forces, in the Dhinniyya area of north Lebanon in February 2000.

Brothers Bilal and Khalid Mahmud, also arrested in connection with the Dhinniyya clashes in February 2000, have been on hunger strike for 15 days in protest at their prolonged solitary confinement. On 29 October they were taken from Rumieh prison to the Dhahr Al-Bashiq Hospital in Beirut.

No new information has been received regarding at least 11 other detainees held in connection with the Dhinniyya clashes.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in Arabic, English, French or your own language:**

- welcoming the release of Ahmad Abu Ghosh, Mazyad Ghayth, Fadi Taybah and 'Ali al-Hamawi;
- expressing concern at the alleged torture of Fadi Taybah;
- calling for all such allegations to be investigated impartially and independently, and for those responsible to be brought to justice in fair trials;
- expressing concern for the health of Bilal and Khalid Mahmud, who have been on hunger strike after being held in solitary confinement following the clashes in the Dhinniyya area in February 2000;
- urging that all detainees held in connection with the Dhinniyya clashes be given a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards for fair trial;
- seeking assurances that they are well-treated at all times and not subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- reminding the Lebanese authorities that any confessions extracted under duress shall be null and void according to the provisions of the Convention Against Torture to which Lebanon is a state party.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency President Emile Lahoud  
Office of the President  
Ba'bda Palace  
Ba'bda, Beirut  
Lebanon  
**Telegram: President Lahoud, Beirut, Lebanon**  
**Fax: + 961 1 425 393**  
**Telex: 21000**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

His Excellency Samir Jisr  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
Rue Sami Solh  
Beirut  
Lebanon  
**Telegram: Justice Minister, Beirut, Lebanon**  
**Fax: + 961 1 611 142**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

Judge 'Adnan 'Addoum  
Prosecutor General  
Palace of Justice  
Beirut  
Lebanon  
**Fax: + 961 1 427 819 (if someone answers ask for the fax tone)**  
**Salutation: Dear Judge 'Adnan 'Addoum**

and to diplomatic representatives of Lebanon accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 December 2002.