

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 18/020/2001

21 September 2001

Further information on UA 233/01 (MDE 18/015/2001, 13 September 2001) - Fear of torture/Incommunicado detention/Legal concern

LEBANONMilad 'Assaf (m), builder

Released: Fadi al-Shamati (m), businessperson
Sa'ud Bu-Shibl (m), businessperson
Dani Gea'gea (m)

Fadi al-Shamati, Sa'ud Bu-Shibl, and Dani Gea'gea were released on bail on 20 September. They have been charged with holding unauthorized political meetings and are due to appear in court on 9 October.

Milad 'Assaf is reportedly being held at the Ministry of Defence Detention Centre in Yarze. He has no access to a lawyer or to his family and remains at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

The four men are all members of the outlawed Lebanese Forces party (LF) and were arrested in Beirut between 7 and 11 September. LF members are routinely arrested, often as they engage in legitimate political activities critical of the authorities. They are detained incommunicado, sometimes for weeks on end, which puts them at greater risk of torture and ill-treatment.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Arabic, French or your own language:

- calling for the release of Milad 'Assaf, unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and for him to be brought promptly to trial in accordance with international standards for fair trial;
- seeking assurances that he is being well-treated and not tortured or ill-treated;
- urging the authorities to allow him immediate access to his family, lawyers and whatever medical care he may require;
- welcoming the release on bail of Fadi al-Shamati, Sa'ud Bu-Shibl, and Dani Gea'gea;
- expressing concern that the charges against them appear to be entirely without foundation, and urging that they be dropped immediately as Amnesty International would consider them to be prisoners of conscience if convicted;
- Calling for the immediate halting of the wave of arbitrary arrest of LF members in Lebanon.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency President Emile Lahoud
Office of the President
Ba'abda Palace
Ba'abda, 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

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Beirut

Lebanon

Telegram: Justice Minister, Beirut, Lebanon

Fax: + 961 1 862 622

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Judge 'Adnan 'Addoum

Prosecutor General

Palace of Justice

Beirut

Lebanon

Fax: + 961 1 427 819

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 2 November 2001.