

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/30/98

UA 130/98

Fear of torture / Legal concern

24 April 1998

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON Rabah Fayez Abu Qa'ur, aged 16, arrested 2 March  
Muhammad Hussayn Qazan, aged 15, arrested 16 March  
Yusef Dagher, arrested 13 March  
Khidr Fu'ani, arrested 13 March  
Haydar Haydar, arrested 13 March  
Hussayn Haydar, arrested 13 March  
Haytham Yunes, arrested 13 March  
Muhammad Zaraqit, arrested 13 March  
Fadi Qasem Hamdan, arrested 31 March  
Fatima Ahmad 'Abd al-Nabi (f), arrested 9 April  
Muhammad 'Ali Masra, husband of above, arrested 9

April

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Amnesty International has recently learned of the arrests of the eleven above-named residents of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

All are believed to have been taken to Khiam Detention Centre, where systematic torture and ill-treatment during interrogation is known to take place. All are being held incommunicado, heightening concern for their well-being.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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 -- all without charge or trial, some for more than 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.

During the period from 1987 to 1995, detainees at Khiam Detention Centre were not permitted visits from their families, lawyers or the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This provision was again imposed on 10 September 1997.

Although letters received by UA network members from Israeli embassies state that the ICRC does make regular visits to Khiam Detention Centre the ICRC has in fact not had access since 10 September.

Although Israel also asserts that it is not responsible for Khiam Detention Centre and directs all inquiries 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, French, Arabic or your own language:**

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the 11 above-named people, if they are not to be charged with recognizably criminal offences and tried according to international standards for a fair trial;
- urging that they 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;
- urging full respect for the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the treatment of detainees under the age of 18.

**APPEALS TO:**

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

Brigadier General Uri Shoham  
Judge Advocate General  
6 David Elazar Street, Hakiryia, Tel Aviv, Israel  
**Telegrams: Judge Advocate General, Tel Aviv, Israel**  
**Faxes: + 972 3 569 4370**  
**Salutation: Dear Brigadier General**

General Antoine Lahad  
South Lebanon Army  
c/o Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak  
Chief of General Staff, 7 'A' Street  
Hakiryia, Tel Aviv, Israel  
**Telegrams: General Lahad, c/o Chief General Staff, Tel Aviv, Israel**  
**Faxes: + 972 3 691 6940 (write c/o Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, Chief of General Staff)**  
**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 5 June 1998.