

PUBLIC

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Fear of torture or ill-treatment /  
Legal concern / Health concern

19 November 1998

**ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON' Abbas Muhsen Fadlallah, shaykh (local religious leader),  
born 1973**

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Amnesty International has just received news of the arrest of religious leader, 'Abbas Muhsen Fadlallah, whom the organization fears could be at risk of torture or ill-treatment and prolonged detention without trial.

There are additional concerns that 'Abbas Muhsen Fadlallah may not receive adequate medical treatment for stomach problems he is believed to suffer from.

'Abbas Muhsen Fadlallah was arrested on 27 October 1998 at his home in Kufar Kila by members of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) and the Israeli security forces, and taken to Khiam Detention Centre - notorious for its harsh treatment of detainees.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Khiam Detention Centre is the main SLA detention and interrogation centre in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" of South Lebanon. Around 140 detainees are presently believed to be held in Khiam, some of whom have been held without charge or trial for up to 13 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.

Although Israel 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, Hebrew, Arabic, French or your own language:**

- seeking assurances that 'Abbas Muhsen Fadlallah will not be subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment;
- seeking assurances that he receives adequate medical treatment;
- calling for his release if he is not to be charged with criminal offences and tried according to international standards for a fair trial.
- urging the Israeli government to respect its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 5: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"

**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 Lieutenant-General Shaul Mufaz  
Chief of General Staff  
7 'A' Street  
Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel  
**Telegrams: General Lahad, c/o Chief General Staff, Tel Aviv, Israel**  
**Faxes: + 972 3 691 6940 (write c/o Lieutenant-General Shaul Mufaz, 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 31 December 1998.

***"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"***  
*Article 5, Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

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