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WORLDWIDE APPEALS APRIL 1998

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON - POSSIBLE HOSTAGE / DETENTION BEYOND EXPIRY OF SENTENCE

Seventeen-year-old Husayn Fahd Daqduq was seized from his home by members of the South Lebanon Army (a militia allied to Israel) in April 1987. Today, nearly 10 years after the expiry of his sentence, he is still in detention. Like the 17 other Lebanese detainees held with him, he is almost certainly a hostage for the release, or information about the fate, of Israeli soldiers missing in action in Lebanon.

After his arrest, Husayn Daqduq was taken with five others from his village – in a part of South Lebanon occupied by Israel -- to Khiam Detention Centre in South Lebanon. They claimed that they were then tortured by methods such as having electrodes attached to their fingers and genitals. The group was subsequently taken to Sarafand military camp in Israel, where in a secret detention centre they were reportedly interrogated by Israeli soldiers, and subjected to shabeh, a form of torture where the victim is deprived of sleep for days on end while hooded, and forced to sit or stand in painful positions.

Husayn Daqduq was later tried before an Israeli military court and was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment on charges which included taking part in military training with an illegal organization. This sentence expired in October 1988, but he was not released. He challenged his continued detention in the Israeli Supreme Court in 1989 without success; the Supreme Court ruled that it "saw no reason to intervene in State considerations". Since 1991 he has been held under administrative detention, automatically renewed every six months. He is currently in a special underground wing of Ramleh prison in Israel.

+ Please write, calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Husayn Fahd Daqduq, to: Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister, 3 Kaplan Street, Hakiryia, Jerusalem 91007, Israel. Faxes: 972 3 691 7915.

HONDURAS - EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING

Ernesto Sandoval Bustillo, a regional coordinator for the non-governmental Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CODEH), was shot dead by unidentified men as he walked to the CODEH offices in Santa Rosa de C6pan, Honduras, on 10 February 1998. His killing has heightened fears for the safety of other CODEH members.

According to reports, Ernesto Sandoval Bustillo had previously received several death threats from a group known as Los justicieros de la noche ("Avengers of the night") which, in December 1997, issued death threats against 75 human rights activists. The Directorate of Criminal Investigation has apparently opened an investigation into his killing.

The increasing levels of intimidation of human rights defenders in Honduras seem directly related to their efforts to expose serious human rights violations and to put pressure on the authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice. Ernesto Sandoval Bustillo had reportedly been active in leading some of the investigations into the killing in April 1997 of C6ndido Amador Recinos, an indigenous leader and defender of indigenous rights.

+ Please write, welcoming the reported initiation of a government investigation into the killing of Ernesto Sandoval Bustillo; asking that the investigation to be thorough and exhaustive and that those responsible be brought to justice; requesting an investigation into allegations of the existence of "death squads" in Honduras and that the authorities take measures to put an end to such groups; and expressing serious concern for the safety of members of CODEH and other human rights defenders, urging the government to take immediate measures to guarantee their safety. Send letters to: S.E. Carlos Roberto Flores, Presidente de la Rep6blica de Honduras, Casa Presidencial, 6^a Avenida, 1^a Calle, Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Faxes: 504 356949.

JAPAN - DEATH PENALTY

Hakamada Iwao, aged 61, has been under sentence of death for 29 years. He has consistently protested his innocence and claim that his confession was extracted under torture.

Hakamada Iwao was arrested in August 1966, and accused of murdering the managing director of the factory in which he worked, the managing director's wife, and their two children. He was interrogated intensively by police over several weeks, in sessions lasting an average of 12 hours a day.

He claims that during his interrogation he was denied food and water, refused access to a toilet, and kicked and punched. He also claims that his arms and ears were twisted, that he was dragged by the hair, subjected to sleep deprivation and denied access to medicine and medical treatment. In a letter to his sister, he wrote, "I could do nothing but crouch down on the floor trying to keep from defecating. At that moment one of the interrogators put my thumb onto an ink-pad, drew it to a written confession record and ordered me, 'write your name here!', shouting at me, kicking me and wrenching my arm."

Hakamada Iwao retracted his confession at his trial. It has been revealed that he made 45 confessions during interrogation and that the court chose one. His request for a retrial was rejected in 1994. Hakamada Iwao's family is concerned about his mental health because of his years of confinement under sentence of death.

+ Please write, urging that the death sentence against Hakamada Iwao be commuted; asking for a full investigation into his allegations of torture under interrogation and for the results of this investigation to be made public; and asking that his request for a retrial be granted. Send letters to: Mr Shimoinaba Kokichi, Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice, 1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan.