

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/27/97

UA 179/97

Fear of torture / Legal concern

18 June 1997

ISRAEL / SOUTH LEBANON Ahmad Kamil Sa'id, secondary school student

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Ahmad Kamil Sa'id was reportedly arrested with six others from the village of Yohmor al-Shaqif in South Lebanon on 2 June 1997. The arrest took place at a road block set up by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF). The others were later released but Ahmad Kamil Sa'id is said to have been taken to the Khiam detention centre, a prison run by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) in Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon, where he is at risk of torture and prolonged detention without charge or trial. To date, his family has had no access to him.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Khiam detention centre is the main detention and interrogation facility of the SLA. At present about 130 detainees are held. Those detained have been held without charge or trial for up to 12 years. Torture of detainees during interrogation has been systematic; among the tortures described by former detainees are severe beatings, whippings and the use of electric shocks. Detainees had no access to families and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) between 1987 and 1995.

Israel frequently denies that it has any authority over Khiam detention centre. However, Israel controls the "security zone" and controls, trains and funds the SLA.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- seeking assurances from the SLA and Israel that Ahmad Kamil Sa'id is not being tortured or ill-treated;
- calling on the SLA and the Israeli authorities to ensure that he has immediate access to his lawyer, family, doctor, and to the ICRC;
- calling for the immediate release of Ahmad Kamil Sa'id if he is not promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence and tried before a court which meets international standards for fair trials.

#### APPEALS TO:

Binyamin Netanyahu  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
3 Kaplan Street  
Hakirya, Jerusalem 91007, Israel

**Faxes: +972 3 691 7915**

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

General Yitzhak Mordechai  
Minister of Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
7 'A' Street, Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel

**Faxes: +972 3 697 6218**

**Telegrams: Defence Minister, Tel Aviv, Israel**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

General Antoine Lahad  
South Lebanon Army  
Marjayun  
South Lebanon  
via Israel

**Telephone no/fax: +972 6 6659 067**

**Telegrams: General Lahad, SLA, Marjayun, via Israel**

**Salutation: Dear General**

and to diplomatic representatives of ISRAEL / SOUTH LEBANON accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 July 1997.