

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 130/97

Fear of Torture / Legal Concern

3 October 1997

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON 'Abbas Muhammad 'Atiya, 25
Muhammad Salim Qataih, 64
Mustafa Jawad Tubeh, 32
Qasem Lutfi 'Assaf, 20

Mustafa Jawad Tubeh, 'Abbas Muhammad 'Atiya, Qasem Lutfi 'Assaf and Muhammad Salim Qataih were reportedly arrested on 2 October 1997 by Israeli forces from their homes in the village of Arnun, which lies on the border of Israel's self-styled "security zone". Israeli forces entered the village and searched houses; the four people detained were reportedly taken to Khiam detention centre where they may be in danger of torture or ill-treatment or prolonged detention without charge or trial.

Khiam is a major detention and interrogation centre in South Lebanon, run by the South Lebanon Army (SLA). There are now at least 130 detainees in Khiam, who have been held without charge or trial for up to 12 years. There is reportedly systematic torture and ill-treatment of detainees, particularly in the period immediately after their arrests, including beatings, whippings and application of electric shocks. Detainees are routinely denied access to their lawyers.

For eight years, from 1987 until 1995, detainees in Khiam detention centre were not even allowed visits from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) or their families. Since 10 September 1997 visits to Khiam detention centre from the ICRC or families of detainees have again been stopped, heightening concern for those held.

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

- urging that Mustafa Jawad Tubeh, 'Abbas Muhammad 'Atiya, Qasem Lutfi 'Assaf and Muhammad Salim Qataih be granted immediate and continuing access to their families, lawyers and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
- seeking assurances that the detainees will be protected from any form of torture or ill-treatment;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the detainees if they are not charged with criminal offences and tried according to international standards for a fair trial;
- calling for all detainees in Khiam to have access to the ICRC, family and lawyers.

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

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Telegrams: Defence Minister, Tel Aviv, Israel
Faxes: + 972 3 697 6218
Salutation: Dear Minister

General Antoine Lahad
South Lebanon Army
Marjayun
South Lebanon
Via Israel

Telegrams: General Lahad, SLA, Marjayun, Via Israel
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 4 November 1997.