

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/90/07

UA 323/97

Fear of Torture / Legal Concern

15 October 1997

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON    Taysir Dabaja (under 16), school student  
Na'ima Faysel Jaber (f) (under 16), school student  
Khaled Idris, (under 16), school student  
Bisam 'Ali Hamdeh (under 16), school student  
Bilal Ibrahim al-Ashqar (under 16), school student  
Bilal Kayed Faraj (under 16), school student  
Zeinab Naser (f) (32)  
Mazen 'Abdallah (12)

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Taysir Dabaja, Na'ima Faysel Jaber, Khaled Idris, Bisam 'Ali Hamdeh, Bilal Ibrahim al-Ashqar and Bilal Kayed Faraj were reportedly arrested by Israeli forces on 10 October 1997. The arrests took place in their village of Bint Jabil, which lies in Israel's self-styled "security zone". All six are school students under the age of 16. They are believed to be detained at al-Khiam detention centre.

In addition, Israeli forces allegedly arrested Zeinab Naser on 13 October. Zeinab Naser is from the village of Arnoun, also in the "security zone". She is believed to be held in Khiam detention centre. Her husband and son, Mustafa Jawad Tubeh and 'Ali Mustafa Tubeh, were reportedly arrested by Israeli forces and taken to the same detention centre on 2 October. Mustafa Jawad Tubeh was the subject of Amnesty International Urgent Action Extra 130/97, MDE 15/88/97, issued on 3 October.

On 14 October, Israeli troops reportedly arrested Mazen 'Abdallah, a 12 year old boy, who is from al-Khiam village, also in the "security zone". He is also believed to be held in Khiam detention centre.

Amnesty International is concerned that all these people may be in danger of torture or ill-treatment, or prolonged detention without charge or trial.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Khiam is a major detention and interrogation centre in South Lebanon, run by the South Lebanon Army (SLA). There are now at least 140 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 arrest, 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 these detainees be granted immediate and continuing access to their families, lawyers and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
- urging full respect for the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the treatment of detainees under the age of 18;

- 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  
**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 26 November 1997.