

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/93/97

27 October 1997

Further information on EXTRA 138/97 (MDE 15/91/97, 17 October 1997) - Fear of imminent house destruction

**ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES** At least 40 persons, including elderly persons and children, living in four houses in Asira al-Shamaliya in the northern West Bank

---

A military court has upheld the decision of the Israeli Military Commander of Nablus District to destroy the houses of the families of Tawfiq Yassin and Yousef Shawli. The court also ruled that the house of the family of Bashar Sawalha would be partially demolished and partially sealed, and that the house of Mo'awiya Jarara's family would be partially sealed. Engineers report that this last house will not withstand the cement used in sealing and that irreparable damage will be done to the entire structure if it is sealed.

Following the military court's decision, the lawyer of the four families submitted a petition to the Israeli High Court on 26 October seeking an order to stop the demolition and sealing of the four homes. On 17 October the High Court issued an interim injunction prohibiting the demolition or sealing of the houses until the court rules on the case. A court decision is expected by the end of this week.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please continue to send telegrams/faxes in English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern at the punishment -- by the confiscation and destruction or sealing of their homes -- of at least 40 people, including elderly persons and children, who have not been found guilty of committing any offence;
- urging that the Israeli Government fully respect Articles 33 and 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, as well as the relevant provisions of international human rights standards;
- urging that the Israeli Government immediately cancel the planned confiscation and demolition or sealing of these four houses.

**This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 15 per Section.**

**APPEALS TO:**

General Yitzhak Mordechai  
Minister of Defence  
**Telegrams: Defence Minister, Tel Aviv, Israel**  
**Faxes: + 972 3 697 6218**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Colonel Shimshon Arbel  
Military Commander of Nablus District  
**Faxes: + 972 2 997 4605 (ask to send a fax)**  
**Salutation: Dear Colonel Arbel**

Colonel Shlomo Politis  
Legal Adviser to the Civil Administration  
**Faxes: + 972 2 9977326**  
**Salutation: Dear Colonel Politis**

2

**COPIES TO:**

Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights  
and the Environment - LAW

POB 2987

Jerusalem

Via Israel

**Faxes: + 972 2 5811072**

and to diplomatic representatives of Israel accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS before 30 October 1997.**