

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 18/07/97

1 April 1997

Further information (1) on UA 28/97 (MDE 18/04/97, 28 January 1997) -
"Disappearance" / Fear of torture / Health concern

LEBANONGabi 'Aql Karam

new name:Magi 'Aql Karam

Magi 'Aql Karam, sister of Gabi Karam, is being held at an unknown location where Amnesty International fears she may be facing torture.

Magi Karam was reportedly detained on 1 March 1997 by members of the Syrian intelligence forces in the area of Chtoura, in the Beqaa' Valley in Lebanon. Unconfirmed reports suggest that she may have been transferred to Syria after being interrogated by Syrian intelligence officers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Magi Karam, born in 1953, was previously arrested on 21 December 1993 and served a nine-month prison sentence in Lebanon after being convicted by a military court for alleged contact with Israel. She is married to a former police officer and has six children. Her previous arrest was reportedly related to her son's travels through Israel in 1988 on his way to study in Sweden. She was also charged with allegedly photographing Syrian officers attending a birthday party at her home in the Beqaa' Valley which her brother Gabi was charged with having passed on to Israeli agents.

Amnesty International has no new information on the whereabouts or fate of Gabi 'Aql Karam.

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

- requesting information about the current whereabouts of both Gabi and Magi 'Aql Karam and details of any charges against them;
- seeking assurances that they are not being subjected to torture;
- calling for their immediate release unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency President Elias Hirawi
Office of the President
Ba'abda Palace
Ba'abda, Beirut
Republic of Lebanon
Fax: +961 1 425 393
Tel: +961 1 220 000
Telegrams: President Hirawi, Beirut, Lebanon
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Rafiq al-Hariri
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Grand Serail
Rue des Arts et Metiers

Sanayeh, Beirut
Republic of Lebanon
Fax: +961 1 200 469; +961 1 354 318
Tel: +961 1 221 000
Telegrams: Prime Minister al-Hariri, Beirut, Lebanon
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Bahij Tabbara
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Palais de Justice, Beirut
Republic of Lebanon
Fax: +961 1 422 957 (if voice ask for fax)
Tel: +961 1 422 956
Telegrams: Minister of Justice, Beirut, Lebanon
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Michel Murr
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior
Office of the Prime Minister
Grand Serail
Rue des Arts et Metiers
Sanayeh, Beirut
Republic of Lebanon
Fax: +961 1 869 813
Tel: +961 1 369 135
Telegrams: Minister of Interior, Beirut, Lebanon
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Mr. 'Adnan 'Addoum
Prosecutor General
Palais de Justice
Beirut
Republic of Lebanon
Fax: +961 1 423 790

and to diplomatic representatives of Lebanon accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 May 1997.