

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 18/01/94
Distr: UA/SC

UA 68/94 Torture / Fear of torture / Health concern 22 February 1994

LEBANON Georges Habib Haddad, aged 35
Maghi 'Aql Karam
Sharbel Dib Dib
Janet Amin Haddad (female)
Joseph Pierre al-Anjam
Pierre Tawfiq Makarzel
Muhammad Yasin Saqr
Raymond Jean al-Hayek
Muhammad Shihab Jaber
Majed Jaber Jaber
Mahmud Faqih
Kamil Haddad

Amnesty International is extremely concerned about allegations that Georges Habib Haddad was tortured during detention in the Ministry of Defence in Beirut, and is concerned that the other 11 people named above may be in detention and at risk of similar treatment. The organization is further concerned at reports that Georges Haddad is not receiving adequate medical treatment for injuries sustained as a result of his torture, including a broken arm.

Georges Haddad, who is from Fatka near the town of Jounieh, was arrested on 23 December 1993 from his workplace in the Ministry of Housing in Beirut, reportedly by armed men in civilian clothes who produced no arrest warrant. He was taken to the Ministry of Defence where he was held for 37 days, mostly in solitary confinement. He was then transferred to Roumieh Prison, also in Beirut, where he is currently held. He has not yet seen a lawyer.

He has reportedly appeared before both the Prosecutor and an Examining Magistrate of the Military Court apparently accused of violating Articles 275 and 283 of the Penal Code which forbid contact with the enemy, and which may carry the death penalty. His name appeared in a newspaper report on 29 January 1994 which stated that 12 Lebanese had been charged with contacting and collaboration with the Israeli enemy in violation of these articles. The other 11 are reported to have been arrested and to remain in detention, but Amnesty International has not been able to confirm this.

According to reports, Georges Haddad has suffered a broken right arm and severe bruising as a result of torture at the Ministry of Defence. He is reported to have said that during his detention he fainted several times as a result of this torture, and that he has received no treatment for his broken arm or any of his other injuries.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Reports of torture and ill-treatment in Lebanon continue to be received. Most recently, in November and December 1993 a number of people were reportedly arrested in Lebanon and later alleged that they had been tortured or ill-treated while in detention. Two other men have been charged with making contact with Israel: one, Samir Nasr, remains in detention in Beirut, while the other has not been arrested. Samir Nasr also alleged that he was ill-treated during his interrogation.

Georges Haddad is the nephew of Sa'd Haddad, the founder (now dead) of the South Lebanon Army (SLA). The SLA is a militia allied to Israel, with which it controls a strip in south Lebanon extending from the Lebanese/Israeli border northwards to the Jezzine region.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams, telexes and airmail letters either in English, Arabic, French or your own language:

- expressing concern about the reports of torture of Georges Habib Haddad in the Ministry of Defence in Beirut;
- calling for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into these allegations, the methods and findings of which should be made public;
- calling for Georges Haddad to be provided with prompt medical treatment, by a doctor of his choice if he so desires;
- seeking information about the legal status and whereabouts of the 11 other people reportedly arrested for collaboration with Israel, and urging the authorities to ensure that neither they, nor any other detainee in Lebanon, are subjected to any form of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

APPEALS TO

1) Rafik Hariri
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Beirut, Lebanon

Telegrams: Prime Minister Hariri, Beirut, Lebanon

Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Mohsen Dalloul
Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
Yarzeh, Beirut, Lebanon

Telegrams: Minister of Defence Dalloul, Beirut, Lebanon

Telexes: 20901

Salutation: Your Excellency

3) Bahij Tabbara
Minister of Justice
rue Sami Solh
Beirut, Lebanon

Telegrams: Minister of Justice Tabbara, Beirut, Lebanon

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 5 April 1994.