

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 139/94 Deliberate and arbitrary killings / Fear of further killings

7 April 1994

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Vered Mordechai, aged 13, (f)
Maya Elharar, aged 18, (f)
Fadia Shalabi, aged 25, (f)
Ayeh Wahaba, aged 38, (f)
Ilana Shreiber, aged 55, (f)
Mirav Ben Moshe, aged 16, (f)
Asher Attiyeh, aged 48

On 6 April 1994, in the northern Israeli town of Afula, the seven people named above were killed and about 50 others wounded, when a car bomb exploded next to an Israeli school bus. The attacker was also killed in the explosion. The Islamic Resistance Movement (*Hamas*) is reported to have claimed responsibility for the bombing, describing it as retaliation for the murder of at least 29 Palestinians by an Israeli settler in the Haram al-Ibrahimi mosque in al-Khalil (Hebron) on 25 February 1994. Amnesty International fears that *Hamas* may carry out further reprisal killings against Israeli civilians.

Muhammad Nazzal, *Hamas* representative in Jordan, is quoted as having said that the Afula bombing was a legitimate response to the Hebron massacre. In January 1994, in a response to earlier appeals by Amnesty International to end abuses, *Hamas* officials including Muhammad Nazzal stated that "*Hamas is bound by the Islamic Shri'ah (sic) Law which sanctifies life, guarantees human rights and strictly prohibits the killing of women, children, clerics and civilians who do not carry arms against Muslims so long as the enemy adheres to the same principle.*" They also state that "*Hamas is anxious not to inflict any harm on civilians, insisting that this can only be guaranteed if Jewish settlers were disarmed and forced out of the territories they illegally occupy.*"

Amnesty International strongly condemns such deliberate and arbitrary killings which violate fundamental principles of humanitarian law. Respect for such principles must be unconditional. Any violation of human rights or humanitarian law by the Israeli authorities cannot justify the perpetration of such killings. Amnesty International is calling on *Hamas*, and all other Palestinian armed organizations, to end reprisals against civilians immediately.

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

- expressing deep regret about the killings in Afula on 6 April 1994;
- calling on *Hamas* to demonstrate respect for basic humanitarian principles and to unconditionally refrain from attacking civilians.

APPEALS TO

1) Mr Muhammad Nazzal
Representative in Jordan
Islamic Resistance Movement (*Hamas*)
P.O. Box 961700
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Faxes: 010 962 6 692396
Telegrams: Mr Muhammad Nazzal, PO Box 961700, Amman, Jordan

Salutation: Dear Mr Nazzal

2)Mr Ibrahim Ghosheh

Spokesperson

Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas)

P.O. Box 961700

Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Faxes: 010 962 692396

Telegrams: Mr Ibrahim Ghosheh, PO Box 961700, Amman, Jordan

Salutation: Dear Mr Ghosheh

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 May 1994.