

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 426/93 Deliberate and arbitrary killings / Fear of further killings

2 December 1993

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Shalva Uzana

Yitzhak Weinstock

Shalva Uzana and Yitzhak Weinstock, two Israeli civilians, were shot and killed on 1 December 1993 near al-Bireh in the Israeli-occupied West Bank when their car came under fire from another car. The Islamic Resistance Movement (*Hamas*) is reported to have claimed responsibility for this most recent attack, and to have threatened further similar attacks.

Amnesty International condemns such deliberate and arbitrary killings, which violate fundamental principles of humanitarian law. During 1993 it has appealed several times to *Hamas* to refrain from killing civilians, as well as soldiers taken prisoner, but it has received no response.

Amnesty International reiterates its appeals to *Hamas*, and to all other Palestinian armed organizations, to end immediately attacks against civilians and violence to prisoners.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since September 1993, when Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) signed the Declaration of Principles, killings by both Israeli forces and Palestinian groups have continued unabated in the Occupied Territories. In recent months, Israeli civilians and soldiers taken prisoner have been deliberately killed by Palestinians. Some have been shot, others have been victims of stabbings and the ramming of vehicles. In addition to *Hamas*, responsibility for many such killings has been claimed by the Islamic Jihad; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Members of *Fatah* have been ordered to stop all armed attacks against Israelis.

Palestinian civilians have also been killed in recent months by Israeli forces, some in circumstances suggesting that the use of lethal force was not necessary or proportionate, or that those shot were victims of extrajudicial executions.

Amnesty International has called on Israel to ensure that its forces do not perpetrate such killings and to take prompt and adequate measures against those responsible.

Amnesty International takes no position on any peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians or on the legitimacy of resorting to arms in pursuit of political aims. However, it believes that governments and armed political groups must at all times respect fundamental principles of humanitarian law.

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

- expressing grave concern about the killings of Shalva Uzana and Yitzhak Weinstock on 1 December 1993;
- calling on *Hamas* to demonstrate respect for basic humanitarian principles and to refrain from attacking civilians or harming prisoners;
- stressing that AI takes no position on the Declaration of Principles and is also appealing to Israel to prevent arbitrary killings by its forces.

APPEALS TO

1) Mr Muhammad Nazzal
Representative in Jordan
Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas)
PO 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)
PO Box 961700
Amman
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Faxes: 010 962 6 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 12 January 1994.