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ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANONIbrahim Harb, physician
Malak Ibrahim Harb (f), his daughter
Sati'a Bazzi, physician
Hussein 'Awda, pharmacist.

The four people named above were reportedly arrested by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) on 16 May and are now believed to be held at Khiam Detention Centre in south Lebanon. Torture and ill-treatment of detainees is systematic at Khiam, and many detainees are held for years without charge or trial.

All four live in south Lebanon. Ibrahim Harb, his daughter Malak Ibrahim Harb and Sati'a Bazzi live in Bint Jubayl, while Hussein 'Awda lives in al-Magora village. All four were reportedly arrested at their homes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Khiam Detention Centre is the main SLA detention and interrogation centre in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon. At least 140 people are believed to be detained there, some of whom have been held without charge or trial for up to 14 years. Former detainees have described systematic torture and ill-treatment, including beating, whipping, torture with electric shocks and dousing with hot and cold water. Detainees are routinely denied access to lawyers.

Israel asserts that it is not responsible for Khiam Detention Centre and directs all inquiries about it to the SLA, yet there are clear links between Israeli forces in south Lebanon and the Khiam administration. In September 1999, the head of the Israeli army's Operations Division admitted to Israel's High Court that members of Israel's internal security service, the General Security Service (GSS), "cooperate with members of the SLA, and even assist them by means of professional guidance and training...and hold meetings several times annually with SLA interrogators at Khiam prison." According to the officer the GSS visited the prison three times in the first seven months of 1999. The officer also admitted that the salaries of the interrogators at Khiam Detention Centre were paid by the Israeli army though he said they intended to stop this. The Israeli government has announced that it will withdraw from Israeli-occupied south Lebanon by July 2000.

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

- seeking assurances that Ibrahim Harb, his daughter Malak Ibrahim Harb, Sati'a Bazzi and Hussein 'Awda, reportedly arrested by the SLA on 16 May and believed to be held at Khiam Detention Centre, will not be tortured or ill-treated in any way;
- calling for the immediate release of all detainees in Khiam Detention Center, as they are held without any legal basis;
- urging the Israeli government to respect its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 5: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment";
- urging the Israeli government to make a commitment not to transfer any detainee from Khiam Detention Centre to Israel before or during its withdrawal from Israeli-occupied south Lebanon, due to be completed by July 2000.

APPEALS TO:
Ehud Barak

Prime Minister and Minister of Defence
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street
Hakirya, Jerusalem 910071
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem
Faxes: + 972 2 566 4838
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Major General (Res.) Uri Lubrani
Coordinator of Government Activities in Lebanon
Ministry of Defence
7 'A' Street
Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel
Telegrams: Uri Lubrani, Tel Aviv, Israel
Faxes: + 972 3 697 7358
Salutation: Dear Major General

General Antoine Lahad
South Lebanon Army
c/o Lieutenant-General Shaul Mufaz
Chief of General Staff
7 'A' Street
Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel
Telegrams: General Lahad, c/o Chief General Staff, Tel Aviv, Israel
Faxes: + 972 3 691 6940 (write c/o Lieutenant-General Shaul Mufaz, Chief of General Staff)
Salutation: Dear General

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Israel accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 June 2000.