

PUBLIC

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Fear of t

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON

'Ali Khalil Surur, aged 20, university student
Samih Surur, aged 23, officer in the gendarmerie
Hasan Musa Ridha, aged 15, schoolboy
Muhammad Musa Ridha, aged 25, manual worker
Muhammad Na'meh Ridha, aged 15, schoolboy

At least five people, including those named above, among them two children, have been arrested in the village of 'Ayta al-Sha'b, in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon. Amnesty International fears that they may be tortured or ill-treated in detention.

They were arrested between about 20 and 22 July by members of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) (an Israeli proxy militia) and the Israeli army, who were searching homes in 'Ayta al-Sha'b. The soldiers confiscated all the mobile phones they found in the houses they searched, and reportedly interviewed about 75 people, including children. Those arrested are believed to be held in Khiam Detention Centre. Following the raids the town of 'Ayta al-Sha'b was reportedly sealed off.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Khiam Detention Centre is the main SLA detention and interrogation centre in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" of south Lebanon. Around 130 detainees are presently believed to be held in Khiam, of whom some have been held without charge or trial for up to 13 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 their lawyers.

Although Israel asserts that it is not responsible for Khiam Detention Centre, and directs all inquiries to the SLA, it is the occupying power in south Lebanon and therefore responsible in international law for what occurs in the area.

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

- seeking assurances that 'Ali Khalil Surur, Samih Surur, Hasan Musa Ridha, Muhammad Musa Ridha and Muhammad Na'meh Ridha will not be tortured or ill-treated in any way;
- calling for their release if they are not to be charged with recognizably criminal offences and tried according to international standards for fair trial;
- urging full respect for the Convention on the Rights of the Child with respect to the treatment of Hasan Musa Ridha and Muhammad Na'meh Ridha.

APPEALS TO:

Ehud Barak
Prime Minister and Minister of Defence
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street
Hakirya, Jerusalem 91007, Israel
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel
Faxes: +972 2 566 4838 and +972 3 691 7915
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Brigadier General Uri Shoham
Judge Advocate General
6 David Elazar Street
Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel
Faxes: +972 3 569 4370
Salutation: Dear Brigadier 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 8 September 1999.