

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 15/71/99

EXTRA 130/99

Fear of t

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON Husayn 'Ali Haris, aged 48  
Muhammad Mahmud Haris, aged 21  
Haytham Bahjat As'ad, aged 30  
Nader Muhammad Khader, aged 30

---

Amnesty International fears that the four men named above could be at risk of torture. The Israeli Defence Force arrested the men, from the villages of 'Ayt al-Sha'b and Belat, on 9 and 10 September 1999. They are believed to be held at the Khiam Detention Centre.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Khiam Detention Centre is the main detention and interrogation centre run by the South Lebanon Army (SLA), Israel's proxy militia, in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" of south Lebanon. Around 130 detainees are presently believed to be held there, some of whom 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 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 Husayn 'Ali Haris, Muhammad Mahmud Haris, Haytham Bahjat As'ad and Nader Muhammad Khader will not be tortured or ill-treated in any way during their detention;
- calling for their immediate release if they are not charged with recognizably criminal offences and tried according to international standards for fair trial;
- 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".

**APPEALS TO:**

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

Brigadier General Uri Shoham  
Judge Advocate General  
6 David Elazar Street  
Hakiryia, Tel Aviv, Israel  
**Telegrams: Judge Advocate General, Tel Aviv, Israel**  
**Faxes: + 972 3 569 4370**  
**Salutation: Dear Brigadier General**

General Antoine Lahad

2

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 25 October 1999.