

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 15/75/99

27 October 1999

Further information on EXTRA 142/99 (MDE 15/50/99, 11 October 1999) - Fear of torture / Legal concern and new Concern: Medical concern

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON Mariam Sobeiti (f), 49]  
Ibrahim Fadlallah, 60]  
'Ali Khalil Khanafer, 24] Released  
Bilal Mahmud Ja'afar, 17]  
Ghunwa Mahmud Ja'afar (f), 21]  
Hussein Mahmud Samhat, 65]  
(note corrected spelling)

Hussein Ahmad Samhat, 39  
Najwa Ahmad Samhat (f), his wife, 36  
Ahmad Hussein Samhat, 15, their son

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The six people named above have all been released from Khiam Detention Centre. Bilal Mahmud Ja'afar, who was released on 22 October 1999, has allegedly been tortured and is in poor health.

Amnesty International is very concerned about the health of pregnant Najwa Ahmad Samhat who was reportedly taken to hospital on 27 October after haemorrhaging severely. She is believed to have been taken to Marj al-'Ayun Hospital, in a part of south Lebanon occupied by Israel.

All nine were reportedly arrested on 7 October in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) and taken to Khiam Detention Centre.

On 17 October, Fatima Ja'afar, the 16-year-old sister of Bilal Mahmud Ja'afar, was detained overnight at the SLA's No.17 Detention Centre. During interrogation she was apparently struck on the head and knocked unconscious. The next day she was taken to the Shaib hospital in Sidon with multiple fractures of the skull and memory loss. Media attention on her ill-treatment by the SLA has been strong. On 25 October, the SLA also reportedly arrested her parents and detained them overnight.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Khiam Detention Centre is the main South Lebanon Army (SLA) detention and interrogation centre in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon. About 150 detainees are presently believed to be held there. Prisoners have been held without charge or trial for up to 14 years.

On 28 October, the many Amnesty International members and groups who have been involved in the campaign on behalf of those detained at Khiam will be taking part in activities to publicize their protest against the continued detention without charge or trial of the prisoners in Khiam Detention Centre.

#### **FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, Arabic or in your own language:**

- expressing concern about the health of Najwa Ahmad Samhat who is pregnant and who, on 27 October 1999, was taken to Marj al-'Ayun Hospital in South Lebanon after she became unwell;
- asking for assurances that she is given all the medical care that she requires;

- seeking assurances that Hussein Ahmad Samhat, his wife Najwa Ahmad Samhat and their son Ahmad Hussein Samhat will not be tortured or ill-treated in any way during their detention;
- calling for the immediate release of the detainees held without charge in Khiam if they are not 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 Ahmad Hussein Samhat, aged 15;
- calling for an independent and impartial investigation into allegations that, on 17 October Fatima Ja'afar, aged 16, was detained overnight by the SLA and sustained head injuries during interrogation;
- asking that any persons against whom evidence is found that they tortured or ill-treated her, be brought to justice in a fair trial.

**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  
 South Lebanon Army  
 c/o Lieutenant-General Shaul Mufaz  
 Chief of General Staff  
 7 'A' Street  
 Hakiryia, 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 24 November 1999.