

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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This is a limited UA. Please organize up to 10 appeals per section.

UA 324/93 Killing of demonstrators/Fear for Safety 15 September 1993

LEBANON: Eight civilians

Amnesty International is extremely concerned about the killing on 13 September of eight Lebanese civilians and the injury of about 30 others who were demonstrating in Beirut against the signing of the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington. It is calling for a full, impartial and independent investigation into the incident, the methods and results of which should be made public. It is also calling on the Lebanese authorities to ensure that demonstrators are not killed for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association.

The demonstration had been organized by Hizbullah (Party of God), one of Lebanon's political parties. The soldiers are said to have ordered the demonstrators to turn back, then to have fired in the air, and finally to have fired into the crowd, killing at least six men and two women, and injuring others.

On 12 September the Central Security Committee (headed by the Minister of the Interior) issued a statement which apparently "reminded citizens of the ban on demonstrations ordered by the Cabinet". Demonstrations appear to have been banned in Lebanon since late July.

Amnesty International is extremely concerned that soldiers opened fire with live ammunition on what appeared to be a peaceful demonstration. It is also calling for a review of the guidelines on opening fire which should be consistent with international standards governing the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials.

In addition, Amnesty International is concerned that the ban on demonstrations remains in force. Such a ban appears to be a violation of the internationally recognized right to freedom of expression and association. It urges the Lebanese authorities to ensure that such rights are respected.

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

- expressing grave concern at the killing of eight Lebanese civilians on 13 September reportedly while demonstrating peacefully;

- calling for a full, impartial and independent investigation into the incident, the methods and results of which should be made public;

- urging the Lebanese authorities to conduct an immediate review of the guidelines on opening fire, which should be consistent with international standards on the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials;

- expressing concern that the ban on demonstrations, which appears to be a violation of the internationally recognized right to the freedom of expression and association, is still in force, and urging the Lebanese authorities to ensure that such rights are respected.

APPEALS TO

1) Rafik Hariri
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Beirut
Lebanon

Telegrams: Prime Minister Hariri, Beirut, Lebanon
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Mohsen Dalloul
Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
Yarzeh,
Beirut
Lebanon

Telegrams: Defence Minister Dalloul, Beirut, Lebanon
Telexes: 20901
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) Bechara Murhej
Minister of the Interior
Grand Serail
rue des Arts et Métiers
Sanayeh
Beirut
Lebanon

Telegrams: Minister Murhej, Beirut, Lebanon
Telexes: 20900
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: diplomatic representatives of Lebanon accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 October 1993.