
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 236/94

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - **ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES** (this item is being sent to media by the research team)

PLEASE NOTE: Please would press officers send to us any details of coverage of the France report (embargoed 12 October 1994). Thanks - Dina S.

INTERNAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

France - 0001 hrs GMT 12 October - PLEASE NOTE EXACT EMBARGO TIME SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

** Rwanda - 20 October ** - PLEASE NOTE NEW EMBARGO DATE, SEE NEWS SERVICE 234/94

Burundi - 21 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 230/94

Algeria - 25 October - PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE. SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

APEC - 3 November -SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

Iraq - 29 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Turkey - 24 OCTOBER - SEE NEWS SERVICE 181/94

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ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNS
HOSTAGE-TAKING OF ISRAELI SOLDIER

Amnesty International is condemning the hostage-taking of an Israeli soldier this week by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

Nachshon Waxman, aged 20, was allegedly taken prisoner near Ben Gurion international airport, outside Tel Aviv on 9 October. Israeli television broadcast a video tape of a masked Palestinian claiming to belong to Hamas' armed wing, who produced Nachshon Waxman's identity card and said the soldier would be killed unless Israel released two imprisoned Hamas leaders, as well as scores of jailed Islamist militants. Also included in the statement were two prominent leaders of the Hizbullah movement in south Lebanon also held in Israel.

Amnesty International takes no position on the legitimacy of resorting to arms in pursuit of political aims. However, it opposes human rights abuses such as the taking of hostages and torture or killing of prisoners by either governments or armed opposition groups.

Amnesty International is appealing to Hamas to release Nachshon Waxman as he is being held as a hostage in order to obtain the release of imprisoned Hamas leaders and Islamist militants, and has urged that he be treated humanely and not be subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment.

Amnesty International has sought assurances that he will not be killed. Hostage-taking and violence to prisoners are forbidden by international human rights and humanitarian law.

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