

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/02/93
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Date: 15 January 1993

FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEDICAL CONCERN

**More than 400 Palestinians
(See MDE 15/34/92 - 31 December 1992)**

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON

Two of the Palestinians from the Occupied Territories deported from Israel on 17 December were evacuated from their makeshift camp in southern Lebanon by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 9 January 1993. Basem al-Siyuri, a 16-year-old from Hebron on the West Bank, whom the Israeli authorities said had been deported by mistake, has been allowed to return home. Zuhayr Labbadah, 31, who is suffering from a serious kidney infection, was admitted to a hospital in Marja'youn in the "security zone" controlled by Israel with its allied militia the South Lebanon Army (SLA). The remainder of the deportees, however, remain in the area between the "security zone" and the rest of Lebanon in conditions of extreme hardship.

Israel is continuing to refuse to readmit the remaining Palestinians, with the exception of nine who it says were also mistakenly deported and six who were serving prison sentences at the time of deportation. The nine are reportedly suspected of carrying out violent acts, including throwing Molotov cocktails at Israeli vehicles and Israel has said that they will face charges on return. Although Israel has said that they were deported by mistake, it is refusing to allow them to reenter Israeli-controlled territory via the checkpoint through which they were expelled. This has since been mined and barricaded by the SLA. Lebanon has stipulated that this is the only route by which the Palestinians may return. Lebanon is also continuing to refuse to allow the supply of humanitarian aid through its territory and continues to refuse permission for deportees in need of medical attention to be treated in Lebanese hospitals. No relief agencies have been permitted access to them since 21 December. Some supplies are reportedly being smuggled to the deportees by villagers in the area, but food and water supplies are very low.

According to recent reports, some 60 cases of diarrhoeal disease or dysentery have been reported by doctors among the deportees, due to a shortage of fresh water and inadequate sanitary facilities. One deportee, Amjad Zamel, wounded by shrapnel in the jaw during an abortive attempt to enter the "security zone", is said to have had his jaw wired shut, making it difficult for him to take food. Five cases of scabies have been reported in addition to tooth abscesses and eye problems. Some drugs are in short supply. The weather remains extremely cold and windy and many of the deportees are said to be suffering as a result of exposure.

Amnesty International is again calling on the Israeli authorities to allow all the deportees to return safely to Israel and the Occupied Territories and is urging both Israel and the SLA to ensure that the deportees are not harmed and are allowed safe passage through the "security zone" into Israel. If any are suspected of an offence, they should be charged and given a prompt and fair trial, but should otherwise be allowed to return freely to their homes in the

Occupied Territories. The organization also continues to urge the Lebanese authorities to provide the deportees with protection, including access to medical attention if so requested.

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Middle East
Date: 15 January 1993

FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

More than 400 Palestinians
(See MDE 15/34/92 - 31 December 1992)

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON

Keywords

Theme: Deportation/ deprivation of medical care

Summary

Two of the 400+ Palestinians deported from Israel on 17 December 1992 were evacuated from their makeshift camp by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 9 January 1993. One was a 16-year-old boy whom the Israeli authorities have said was deported by mistake. He has been allowed to return home. The second is a 31-year-old man suffering from a kidney infection who has been hospitalized in the Israeli-declared "security zone". The remainder are still in southern Lebanon without access to humanitarian aid. Please see the details attached.

Recommended Actions

- 1) Letters are requested from medical professionals to the Israeli authorities listed below:
 - welcoming the return of Basem al-Siyuri and the hospitalization of Zuhayr Labbadah
 - calling on Israel not to return Zuhayr Labbadah to the camp once his treatment has ended and urging that he be permitted to return safely with the remainder of the deportees
 - calling on Israel and the South Lebanon Army not to harm the deportees and to allow them safe passage back to Israel and the Occupied Territories
 - seeking assurances that, meanwhile, the delivery of essential humanitarian supplies to the deportees, including food and medicines, will be permitted

APPEALS TO:

Mr Yitzhak Rabin
 Prime Minister and Minister of Defence
 Office of the Prime Minister
 3 Kaplan Street
 Jerusalem 91919
 State of Israel
Telegrams: Prime Minister Rabin, Jerusalem, Israel
Telexes: 25279 mpres il
Faxes: 972 2 664 838

Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak
 Chief of Staff
 C/o Ministry of Defence
 7 "A" Street
 Hakiryia
 TEL AVIV 67659
Telegrams: Chief of Staff Barak, Tel Aviv, Israel
Telexes: 371434 mod il
Faxes: +972 3 217915

Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai
 Military Commander for the Northern Command
 c/o Ministry of Defence
 7 "A" Street
 Hakiryia
 Tel Aviv 64734
Telegrams: Major-General Mordechai, Ministry of Defence, Tel Aviv, Israel
Telexes: 371434 mod il
Faxes: 972 3 217915

Copies to:

Judge Yosef Harish
 Attorney General
 PO Box 1087
 Jerusalem

Telexes: 25224 chuts il
(c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Faxes: 972 2 869473

Israeli Medical Association
 39 Shaul Hamelech Boulevard
 Tel Aviv 6498
 State of Israel

Please also send copies to diplomatic representatives of Israel accredited to your country.

2) Separate letters to the LEBANESE authorities should continue to urge that, until the Israeli authorities can be persuaded to readmit the Palestinians, the Lebanese authorities permit, for humanitarian reasons, the delivery of essential humanitarian supplies to the deportees and that any of the Palestinians seeking medical care in Lebanon be permitted entry for this purpose.

President Elias Hrawi
Presidential Palace
Ba'abda
Beirut
Lebanon

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

Bahij Tabbara
Minister of Justice
rue Sami Solh
Beirut, Lebanon

Please send copies of your letters to diplomatic representatives of Lebanon accredited to your country.

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/02/93/addendum

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Date: 18 January 1993

**More than 400 Palestinians
ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON**

On 15 January 1993 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced that it had reached an agreement with Israel to take medical supplies and mail to the Palestinian deportees by helicopter. According to an official from the Israeli Ministry of Defence, if the ICRC were to encounter any deportee whose life was in danger, they would be permitted to take them to hospital on condition that the ICRC findings were confirmed by an Israeli military doctor. However, the Lebanese authorities apparently still have to approve these ICRC flights and concern remains about the harsh conditions which all the deportees are experiencing.