

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/72/96

UA 256/96

Fear of torture

7 November 1996

ISRAEL / SOUTH LEBANON Dr George Kalim Nakd, surgeon

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Dr George Kalim Nakd, a surgeon in Nabatiyya, was reportedly arrested on 1 November 1996 in his home village of Deir Mimas by members of the South Lebanon Army (SLA). He is said to have been taken to the Khiam detention centre, a prison run by the SLA in Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon, where he is at risk of torture and prolonged detention without charge or trial.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Dr George Nakd was accustomed to visit his family in the village of Deir Mimas, five kilometres away from Nabatiyya, within Israel's "security zone" (an area of South Lebanon controlled by Israel with the assistance of the SLA, headed by Antoine Lahad). Dr Nakd and his wife had permission from the SLA to do so.

After his arrest his wife's permission to travel out of the "security zone" was withdrawn.

Khiam detention centre, where it is feared that Dr Nakd may be held, is the main detention and interrogation facility of the SLA. At present about 130 detainees are held in the centre. Those detained have been held without charge or trial for up to 11 years. Torture of detainees during interrogation has been systematic; among the tortures described by former detainees are severe beatings, whippings and the use of electric shocks. Detainees had no access to families and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) between 1987 and 1995.

Israel frequently denies that it has any authority over Khiam detention centre. However, Israel controls the "security zone" and controls, trains and funds the SLA. On many occasions releases of prisoners in Khiam have been connected to release of information concerning Israeli detainees missing in action in Lebanon. Other Lebanese nationals arrested in South Lebanon have been transferred to prisons in Israel; Ali Diya, a Lebanese journalist, arrested by the SLA in June 1996, was held in Israel for one month before release (see UA 168/96, MDE 15/47/96, 4 July 1996 and follow ups). At least 22 other Lebanese from South Lebanon have been held in administrative detention in Israel for up to 10 years. Amnesty International fears that they and the Khiam detainees may be held as hostages in order to obtain information about missing Israeli and SLA soldiers. If so, they should be released immediately.

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

- seeking assurances from the SLA and Israel that Dr George Nakd is not being tortured or ill-treated;
- calling on the SLA and the Israeli authorities to ensure that he has immediate access to his lawyer, family, doctor, and to the ICRC;
- calling for the immediate release of Dr George Nakd if he is not to be promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence and tried before a court which meets international standards for fair trials.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

General Antoine Lahad  
South Lebanon Army  
Marjayun

South Lebanon  
via Israel

**Telephone (no fax): +972 6 959 067**

**Telegrams: General Lahad, SLA, Marjayun, via Israel**

**Salutation: Dear General**

Binyamin Netenyahu  
Prime Minister  
Office of The Prime Minister  
3 Kaplan Street

Hakirya, Jerusalem 91007, Israel

**Faxes: +972 3 697 7839; +972 2 664 838**

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

General Yitzhak Mordechai  
Minister of Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
7 'A' Street, Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel

**Faxes: +972 3 697 6218**

**Telegrams: Defense Minister, Tel Aviv, Israel**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

L'Ordre des Médecins du Liban  
Brazilia Building,  
Hazemiyya,  
Beirut,  
Lebanon

**Fax (ask for fax tone): +961 1 428 568**

and to diplomatic representatives of Israel and Lebanon accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 December 1996.