

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/97/97

UA 375/97

Fear of Torture / Legal Concern

28 November 1997

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON'Ali 'Abd al-Nabi 'Atiya, aged 17 - 22 October  
Mahmud Yusef Basha, aged 20 - 3 November  
Muhammad Hassan Hashem, aged 52 - 22 November  
Khalil Hassan Hashem, aged 40, driver - 22 November  
Yusef Hussayn Shalhub, aged 20, goatherd - 24 November  
Akram Ba'lbeki - 25 November  
Yahiya al-Asmar - 25 November  
Fahd Rimal - 25 November  
Yahiya 'Abbud - 25 November  
Bahiya Ba'lbeki (f) - 26 November  
Usama Nur al-Din - 26 November

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The 11 above-named residents of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon, arrested in recent days and weeks (arrest dates given above), are reported to be currently held in Khiam Detention Centre. Amnesty International fears they may be facing torture or ill-treatment and prolonged detention without trial.

Khiam Detention Centre is the main South Lebanon Army (SLA) detention and interrogation centre in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon. More than 150 detainees are presently believed to be held in Khiam, some of whom have been held without charge or trial for up to 12 years. Former detainees have described systematic torture and ill-treatment including beating, whipping, application of electric shocks and dousing with hot and cold water. Detainees are routinely denied access to their lawyers.

Although Israel denies any responsibility for Khiam Detention Centre and states that inquiries should be addressed to the SLA, Israel is ultimately responsible for what happens in Khiam Detention Centre as it is the occupying power in South Lebanon.

For eight years, from 1987 until 1995, detainees in Khiam Detention Centre were not even allowed visits from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) or their families. Visits to Khiam Detention Centre from the ICRC or families of detainees have been prohibited again since 10 September 1997, heightening concern for the detainees' well-being.

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

- urging that these detainees be granted immediate and continuing access to their families, lawyers and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
- urging full respect for the Convention on the Rights of Child in the treatment of detainees under the age of 18;
- seeking assurances that the detainees will not be subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the detainees if they are not charged with criminal offences and tried according to international standards for a fair trial.

**APPEALS TO:**

Binyamin Netanyahu  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister

3 Kaplan Street  
Hakirya, Jerusalem 91007, Israel  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel**  
**Faxes: + 972 3 691 7915**  
**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

General Yitzhak Mordechai  
Minister of Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
7 'A' Street, Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel  
**Telegrams: Defence Minister, Tel Aviv, Israel**  
**Faxes: + 972 3 697 6218**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

General Antoine Lahad  
South Lebanon Army  
c/o Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak  
Chief of General Staff  
7 'A' Street  
Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel  
**Telegrams: General Lahad, c/o Chief General Staff, Tel Aviv, Israel**  
**Faxes: + 972 3 691 6940 (write c/o Lieutenant-General Amnon Shakak, 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 10 January 1998.