

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/103/97

15 December 1997

Further information on EXTRA 138/97 (MDE 15/91/97, 17 October 1997) and follow-up (MDE/15/93/97, 27 October) - Fear of imminent house destruction

ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES At least 40 persons, including elderly persons and children, living in four houses in Asira al-Shamaliya in the northern West Bank

On 14 December 1997 about 200 members of the Israeli security forces sealed off the village of Asira al-Shamaliya before demolishing the homes of Yousef Shawli and Tawfiq Yassin. The homes of Mo'awiya Jarara and Bashar Sawalha were sealed with concrete blocks.

On 9 December the Israeli High Court rejected an appeal from the four Asira al-Shamaliya families to stop the demolitions. The families' lawyer submitted a copy of Amnesty International's Urgent Action with her appeal application.

The demolitions and the sealings amount to collective punishment for the people living in these houses. These people include children and elderly persons over 60 years old.

This urgent action is ending. Thank you to all those who sent appeals. Those participants who wish to send letters or faxes about the demolition/sealing described above may do so:

- expressing concern at this collective punishment of people, including elderly and children, who have not been found guilty of committing any offence;
- urging that the Israeli government fully respect Articles 33 and 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, as well as the relevant provisions of international human rights standards.

APPEALS TO:

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

COPIES TO:

Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment
- LAW
POB 2987
Jerusalem
Via Israel
Faxes: + 972 2 5811072

and to diplomatic representatives of Israel accredited to your country.