

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 385/92 (MDE 18/02/92, 7 December 1992) - Legal Concern/Fear of torture

LEBANON: Further arrests of suspected supporters of General Michel 'Aoun, including Antoine Samieh

and new names: Jose 'Afif
 Emile al-Hachem
 Nu'man Antoine
 Fadi Baroud
 Jean Abi Rad
 Shukrallah Salameh
 Michel Abu Nassar
 Antoine Saqr
 Jirjis Shamaleh
 Mansour Sfeir
 Emily Azzi (female)
 Dib Flouti

Up to 200 people, mainly believed to be supporters of General Michel 'Aoun, were reportedly arrested shortly after Lebanon's Independence Day celebrations on 22 November. The arrests are believed to have been in connection with the printing and distribution of a leaflet which called for Lebanon to become "truly independent" and for an end to the occupation of Lebanon by foreign forces.

At least 19 are reported to be still held without legal arrest warrants in detention facilities in Yarzeh, Kfarshima and Jisr al-Basha. They may be prisoners of conscience and it is feared that they may be tortured or ill-treated.

According to a Lebanese lawyer, 10 of the detainees began a hunger-strike on 30 November 1992 as a protest against their detention. On 5 December, Jose 'Afif, a bank manager, reportedly suffered a heart attack. He was taken first to a military hospital and was then transferred to the Hotel Dieu Hospital.

Emile al-Hachem was also apparently taken to hospital with a broken leg, alleged to have resulted from torture.

Antoine Samieh, an 11th detainee who is not on hunger-strike, apparently remains under guard in St. George's hospital, where he was taken allegedly after torture.

He is the owner of a printing press alleged to have printed the leaflet. Two of his employees are also reportedly detained: Dib Flouti and Emily Azzi.

According to newspaper reports, the cases of 11 of these detainees have all been referred to a military investigating judge by the military prosecution on charges of forming a group aimed at harming the prestige of the state and

its civilian and military institution; jeopardising Lebanon's links with foreign states; and distributing leaflets. However, according to Lebanese lawyers, civilians should be tried according to the criminal, and not the military, justice system. In addition, lawyers acting for the detainees still have not been allowed to visit them. An application for habeas corpus has been filed, so far without results. Limited family visits have also reportedly been stopped since publication of the report of the hunger-strike.

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FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/airmail letters either in English, French or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the reports of the arbitrary arrest of up to 200 people on or around 22 November 1992;

- expressing concern that those who are still detained may be prisoners of conscience and urging the immediate and unconditional release of all those who are being held solely for the non-violent expression of their political beliefs;

- asking for detailed reasons for these arrests and the current legal status of the detainees;

- expressing concern that supporters of General 'Aoun have reportedly been tortured and ill-treated in detention and urging that these and all other detainees be protected from torture and ill-treatment;

- asking for information on the situation of Antoine Samieh, Emile al-Hachem, both reportedly hospitalized after torture, and Jose Afif, hospitalized after a heart-attack during interrogation, and urging that all allegations of torture or ill-treatment be immediately investigated;

- urging that all detainees be given prompt access to lawyers and their families in accordance with international standards for the treatment of detainees.

APPEALS TO:

1. President Elias Hrawi
Presidential Palace
Ba'abda
Beirut
Lebanon

Telegrams: President Hrawi, Beirut, Lebanon
Telexes: 21000

Salutation: His Excellency

2. Mohsen Daloul
Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
Yarzeh, Beirut
Lebanon

Telegrams: Defence Minister Daloul, Beirut, Lebanon

Telexes: 20901

Salutation: His Excellency

3. Bahij Tabbareh
Minister of Justice
rue Sami Solh
Beirut
Lebanon

Telegrams: Justice Minister Tabbareh, Beirut, Lebanon

Salutation: His Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: diplomatic representatives of Lebanon accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 January 1993.