

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 18/15/00

15 November 2000

**Further information on UA 318/00 (MDE 18/13/00, 18 October 2000) -
Torture/Medical concern/Detention of asylum-seekers/Death in custody**

LEBANON **Trabun Ibrahim Laku**
 Gilbert Kwagy
 Adam Abu Bakr Adam
 Salah Muhammad 'Abdallah
 At least 200 other Sudanese asylum-seekers

'Awadalla Jum'a Jarkum, aged 19 (dead)

One of the Sudanese asylum-seekers detained in Lebanon has died in custody in suspicious circumstances.

'Awadalla Jum'a Jarkum, a 19-year-old Sudanese asylum-seeker, reportedly died in Rumieh Prison in Beirut on 3 November. His body is being kept in the *Dahr al-Bashek* Hospital morgue. The Lebanese authorities have said in a medical report that the cause of death was a heart attack. However, no autopsy is known to have been carried out, and Amnesty International is gravely concerned about the death.

'Awadalla Jum'a Jarkum was reportedly arrested by the Lebanese security forces on 9 October. He was reportedly initially detained at the *Furn al-Shibak* General Security detention centre in Beirut, before being transferred to Rumieh Prison. A warrant for his arrest was apparently issued on 28 October, charging him with entering Lebanon illegally.

Amnesty International fears for the safety of at least 200 Sudanese asylum-seekers, including Gilbert Kwagy, Adam Abu Bakr Adam and Salah Muhammad 'Abdallah, who are reportedly held in incommunicado detention in Lebanese detention centres on charges of entering the country illegally. The organization has received reports that they are being systematically tortured and ill-treated, apparently in an attempt to force them to drop their asylum claims and leave the country.

Of the asylum-seekers whose names are known to Amnesty International, Gilbert Kwagy had his arm broken as a result of torture, and Trabun Ibrahim Laku was so severely beaten that he became incontinent and partially paralysed.

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

- urging the authorities to ensure that detained asylum seekers are not tortured or ill-treated, and calling for an independent investigation into allegations that they have been tortured;
- calling for an independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding 'Awadalla Jum'a Jarkum's death, urging that an autopsy is carried out by independent medical experts to establish the cause of his death;
- calling for all detained asylum-seekers to be brought promptly before a judicial authority to determine whether their detention is lawful and in accordance with international standards;
- reminding the Lebanese Government of its obligations under the customary principle of *non-refoulement*, which prohibits the return of any person to a country where they might risk serious human rights violations, and of its obligations under the United Nations Convention against Torture, which it ratified in May.

APPEALS TO:

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Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Rafiq al-Hariri

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Salutation: Your Excellency

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Salutation: Your Excellency

Maj Gen Jamil al-Sayyed

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Salutation: Dear Maj Gen Jamil al-Sayyed

COPIES TO:

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Prosecutor General

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Salutation: Dear Judge 'Adnan 'Addoum

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and 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 27 December 2000.