

UA 51/00

Fear of torture and ill-treatment / Legal concern

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON Nimr Khaz'al, aged 48

Sawsan Khaz'al, his daughter, aged 27

Munif Abbas Khalil, aged 55, Lebanon Electricity Company employee

The three people named above were arrested on 17 February 2000. All are now believed to be at Khiam Detention Centre (see below), where detainees are systematically tortured and ill-treated, and many have been held for years without charge or trial.

All three are from villages in the Israeli-occupied area of south Lebanon. Nimr Khaz'al and his daughter, Sawsan, live in 'Aynata; Munif Abbas Khalil lives in 'Ayta al-Sha'b.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Khiam Detention Centre is the main South Lebanon Army (SLA) detention and interrogation centre in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon. The SLA is Israel's proxy militia, operating in the area under Israeli occupation. About 150 people are believed to be held at Khiam, where prisoners have been held without charge or trial for up to 14 years. Former detainees have described systematic torture and ill-treatment, including beating, whipping, torture with electric shocks and dousing with hot and cold water.

Israel asserts that it is not responsible for Khiam Detention Centre and directs all inquiries about it to the SLA, but there are clear links between Israeli forces in south Lebanon and the Khiam administration. In September 1999, the head of the Israeli army's Operations Division admitted to Israel's High Court that members of Israel's internal security service, the General Security Service (GSS), "cooperate with members of the SLA, and even assist them by means of professional guidance and training... and hold meetings several times annually with SLA interrogators at Khiam prison." According to the officer, in the first seven months of 1999 the GSS visited the prison three times. He also admitted that the Israeli army paid the Khiam interrogators' salaries directly. He stated that the Israeli army intended to stop paying the interrogators.

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

- seeking assurances that Nimr Khaz'al, Sawsan Khaz'al and Munif Abbas Khalil, who were arrested on 17 February 2000, will not be tortured or ill-treated in any way during their detention;
- calling for them to be released unless they are to be charged with recognizably criminal offences and tried according to international standards for fair trial;
- urging the Israeli government to respect its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 5: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

**APPEALS TO:**

Ehud Barak  
Prime Minister and Minister of Defence  
Office of the Prime Minister  
3 Kaplan Street

Hakirya, Jerusalem 91007

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem**

**Faxes: + 972 2 566 4838**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

Major General (Res.) Uri Lubrani

Coordinator of Government Activities in Lebanon

Ministry of Defence

7 'A' Street

Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel

**Telegrams: Uri Lubrani, Tel Aviv, Israel**

**Faxes: + 972 3 697 7358**

**Salutation: Dear Major General**

General Antoine Lahad

South Lebanon Army

c/o Lieutenant-General Shaul Mufaz

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 Shaul Mufaz, 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 7 April 2000.