

UA 96/00

Fear of torture and ill-treatment/Leg

**ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON** Mohammed Hassan Yaqub, unemployed, aged 45  
Hussein Baher Jom'a, agricultural engineer, aged 35  
Yasir Ramiz Abu-'Aliwa, aged 28

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The three men named above were reportedly arrested by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) on 18 April and are now believed to be held at Khiam Detention Centre in south Lebanon. Torture and ill-treatment of detainees is systematic at Khiam, and many detainees are held for years without charge or trial.

All three live in south Lebanon. Mohammed Hassan Yaqub and Hussein Baher Jom'a live in al-Khiam village, and Yasir Ramiz Abu-'Aliwa lives in Bint Jubayl.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Khiam Detention Centre is the main SLA detention and interrogation centre in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon. At least 150 people are believed to be detained there, some of whom 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. Detainees are routinely denied access to lawyers.

Israel asserts that it is not responsible for Khiam Detention Centre and directs all inquiries about it to the SLA, yet 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 the GSS visited the prison three times in the first seven months of 1999. The officer also admitted that the salaries of the interrogators at Khiam Detention Centre were paid by the Israeli army though he said they intended to stop this.

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

- seeking assurances that Mohammed Hassan Yaqub, Hussein Baher Jom'a and Yasir Ramiz Abu-'Aliwa, reportedly arrested by the SLA on 18 April and believed to be held at Khiam Detention Centre, will not be tortured or ill-treated in any way;
- calling for their immediate release if they are not 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 910071  
**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 8 June 2000.