

PUBLIC

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Legal concern/Fear of torture

16 March 1998

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON Hassan Yahia

'Adnan Yahia
Yahia Yahia
'Abbas Nakhla
Hussain Mar'i
Bilal Abu Ta'am
Hussain Nasr

The people listed above were reportedly arrested by Israeli forces on 3 March 1998 in the village of Tayba, in the Israeli occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon and were taken to Khiam Detention Centre. The arrests took place during an Israeli raid on the village, which is reportedly still under siege. Amnesty International is concerned that the detainees may be ill-treated and tortured while held in incommunicado detention in Khiam.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

More than 150 detainees, including minors, are presently believed to be held in Khiam, the main detention centre operated by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon. Former detainees have described systematic torture and ill-treatment, including beating, whipping, application of electric shocks and dousing with hot and cold water.

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

-calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all the detainees unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
-seeking assurances that the detainees are well treated and allowed access to their families and lawyers.

APPEALS TO:

Binyamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street, Hakiryia, Jerusalem 91007, Israel
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel
Faxes: + 972 3 691 7915
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

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

General Antoine Lahad
South Lebanon Army
c/o Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak
Chief of General Staff, 7 'A' Street
Hakiryia, Tel Aviv, Israel
Telegrams: General Lahad, c/o Chief General Staff, Tel Aviv, Israel
Faxes: + 972 3 691 6940 (write c/o Lieutenant-General Amnon Shakak, Chief of General Staff)
Salutation: Dear General

COPIES TO:

Follow-Up Committee for the Support of
Lebanese Detainees in the Israeli Prisons, Beirut, Lebanon

Faxes: + 961 1 340150

and to diplomatic representatives of Israel/Lebanon accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 April 1998.