

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/41/97

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Legal concern/ fear of torture

1 August 1997

ISRAEL/ SOUTH LEBANON Roger Nahra, 27, journalist )  
Joseph Nahra, 33, unemployed ) brothers  
Michel Nahra, 47, retired policeman)  
Jean Nahra, 40, merchant

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On 3 July 1997, three brothers, Roger, Joseph and Michel Nahra and their cousin, Jean Nahra, were arrested by members of the Israeli Defence Force (IDF). The IDF troops reportedly stormed the home of Roger Nahra, in the village of al-Qilay'a (just within the Israeli-occupied South Lebanon "Security Zone").

He was taken to Khiam detention centre, run by the South Lebanon Army (SLA), in the Israeli occupied "Security Zone". Joseph, Michel and Jean Nahra were reportedly also arrested in their homes and taken to Israel. Despite Amnesty International's requests for information from the Israeli government, to determine their whereabouts, the location of their detention remains unknown.

The detainees have not been allowed access to their families or lawyers and have been held without charge or trial for 29 days. Amnesty International is concerned about the well-being of the four men and fears that they may be in danger of ill-treatment, torture and prolonged detention without charge or trial.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 1994, Roger Nahra has been working as a reporter for the Lebanese broadcasting companies MTV and *Sawt al-Sha'ab* Radio in Southern Lebanon. He was also working for the newspapers *al-Liwa* and the Abu Dhabi-based *al-Khalij*.

Khiam is a major detention and interrogation centre in South Lebanon, run by the SLA. There are now at least 130 detainees in Khiam, who have been held without charge or trial for up to 12 years. There is reportedly systematic torture and ill-treatment of detainees, particularly in the period immediately after their arrests, including beatings, whippings and application of electric shocks. Detainees are routinely denied access to their families and lawyers.

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

-calling on the SLA and Israel to allow Roger, Joseph, Michel and Jean Nahra access to their families, lawyers and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);

-calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the detainees if they are not charged with a criminal offence and tried according to international standards for a fair trial.

#### APPEALS TO:

Binyamin Netanyahu  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
3 Kaplan Street  
Hakirya, 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, Hakirya, el Aviv, Israel  
**Telegrams: Defence Minister, Tel Aviv, Israel**  
**Faxes: + 972 3 697 6218**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

General Antoine Lahad  
South Lebanon Army  
Marjayun  
South Lebanon  
Via Israel  
**Telegrams: General Lahad, SLA, Marajun, Via Israel**  
**Salutation: Dear General**

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

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 September 1997.