

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 15/69/98

21 July 1998

Further information on UA 45/98 (MDE 15/13/98, 11 February 1998) - Fear of Torture/Legal concern

ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON Khuza'i Barakat, aged 45
Maher Ahmad Hamdan, aged 23
Baligh Qa'dan, aged 20
'Ayman Luqais, aged 20
Tai' Abu Rashid, aged 25
Khaled Abu Sari
Manal Ibrahim

Khuza'i Barakat, a civil servant aged 45, who was arrested in Habariya village in South Lebanon on 3 February 1998, was released after nearly six months' incommunicado detention in Khiam Detention Centre on 20 July 1998. He was immediately expelled from the "security zone", a strip of land in South Lebanon controlled by Israel and its proxy militia the South Lebanese Army (SLA).

Amnesty International continues to be concerned about torture or ill-treatment and detention without trial of Maher Ahmad Hamdan, Baligh Qa'dan, Ayman Luqais, Tai' Abu Rashid, Khaled Abu Sari and Manal Ibrahim and about 100 other detainees in Khiam who are held outside any legal framework.

According to *Association France Presse*, quoting Lebanese police, Khuza'i Barakat suffered torture, including severe beatings, in Khiam Detention Centre, where he was accused of helping the resistance movement. When released he could barely walk; he was apparently interrogated by Lebanese military intelligence and then hospitalised.

Between September 1997 and July 1998 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and families were denied access to about 150 detainees held in Khiam without charge or trial. Visits resumed 10 days ago, soon after 50 detainees from Khiam, 10 Lebanese detained in Israel, and 40 bodies of dead Lebanese guerillas were exchanged for the body of an Israeli soldier killed during an Israeli raid in Lebanon in September 1997. Detainees in Khiam have been frequently tortured or ill-treated. Detainees have been held for up to 13 years without charge or trial; many of them appear to be used as hostages to exchange for Israelis missing or killed in action. Detainees in Khiam include women, such as Manal Ibrahim, and minors.

During hearings held last week before the United Nations Human Rights Committee, a body of experts which examines countries' reports of their implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Israel continued to deny responsibility for Khiam Detention Centre. However, as occupying power, Israel is responsible for the territories under its occupation, including the actions of the SLA (South Lebanon Army), which is funded and controlled by Israel. General Antoine Lahad, the head of the SLA, holds an Israeli passport and the evidence that Israel has direct authority over the running of Khiam is overwhelming.

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

- urging that Maher Ahmad Hamdan, Baligh Qa'dan, 'Ayman Luqais, Tai' Abu Rashid, Khaled Abu Sari and Manal Ibrahim will not be subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment and calling for their release if they are not charged with

criminal offences and tried according to international standards for a fair trial;

- calling on the Israeli Government to investigate the reported torture of Khuza'i Barakat, to bring to justice those responsible and to compensate the victim;

- calling on the Israeli authorities to release immediately and unconditionally all those held as hostages in Khiam Detention Centre.

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, 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 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 and Lebanon accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 September 1998.