

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 18/003/2002

8 March 2002

Further information on UA 108/01 (MDE 18/006/2001, 3 May 2001) and follow-up (MDE 18/007/2001, 11 May 2001) - Torture / Incommunicado detention / Medical concern

LEBANON Ahmad Muhammad 'Alyan (m)
 Huyam 'Ali 'Alyan (f), his niece

Ahmad Muhammad 'Alyan and Huyam 'Ali 'Alyan were convicted of "collaboration" with Israel by the Military Court in Beirut on 1 March.

Huyam 'Ali 'Alyan's sentence was equal to the time she had already spent in custody, and she was released immediately. She had been free on bail since December 2001, after 10 months in custody. She had been held for some time at the Barbar al-Khazin barracks, where she was reportedly handcuffed, blindfolded and beaten.

Ahmad Muhammad 'Alyan is expected to be released in around six weeks, when he has served the remainder of his six-month sentence. He had been free on bail since July 2001. He had been arrested in south Lebanon at the beginning of March 2001, and was held incommunicado for three weeks at the Ministry of Defence Detention Centre in al-Yarze. He was apparently tortured and otherwise ill-treated, and forced to sign an incriminating statement which he was not allowed to read.

The Lebanese authorities have not apparently ordered any independent investigation into the torture allegations. Every year Amnesty International receives reports of people being tortured in police and military custody in Lebanon. It is vital to pressure the authorities to investigate all allegations of torture, so as to begin to stamp out this human rights violation, particularly as Lebanon is now a state party to the UN Convention against Torture.

Many thanks to all those who took action on behalf of Ahmad Muhammad 'Alyan and Huyam 'Ali 'Alyan. If possible, please send a final round of appeals, in English, Arabic, French or your own language:

- welcoming the release of Huyam 'Ali 'Alyan and the imminent release of Ahmad Muhammad 'Alyan;
- expressing concern that there appears to have been no investigation into allegations that both were tortured in custody;
- calling for an independent investigation into the torture allegations, with the results made public and the perpetrators brought to justice;
- reminding the Lebanese authorities that they ratified the Convention against Torture in October 2000.

APPEALS TO:

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Ba'abda Palace
Ba'abda, Beirut
Lebanon

Telegram: President Lahoud, Beirut, Lebanon
Fax: + 961 1 425 393
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Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Samir Jisr
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Ministry of Justice
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Fax: + 961 1 611 142
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COPIES TO:

Judge 'Adnan 'Addoum
Prosecutor General
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Fax: + 961 1 422 957
Salutation: Dear Judge 'Adnan 'Addoum

and to diplomatic representatives of Lebanon accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.