

PUBLIC

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Fea.

**ISRAEL/SOUTH LEBANON Ali Hassan Qassem, aged 41  
Fahd Saleh, aged 40, secondary school teacher  
Fadila Mohammad Tahini, aged 35 (f)**

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On 20 September 1999 the three Lebanese civilians named above were seized from their village of 'Ayta al-Sha'b by the South Lebanon Army (SLA), Israel's proxy militia in the areas of South Lebanon under Israeli occupation. They were taken to Khiam Detention Centre, where Amnesty International believes they could be at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Ali Hassan Qassem is believed to have been arrested because his son refused to be conscripted into the SLA. Fadila Mohamad Tahini is the wife of Husayn 'Ali Haris, who was arrested in the same village on 9 September. Fahd Saleh was said to have criticised the Israeli occupation.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Khiam Detention Centre is the main SLA detention and interrogation centre in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" of south Lebanon. Around 130 detainees are presently believed to be held there, of whom some have been held without charge or trial for up to 13 years. Former detainees have described systematic torture and other ill-treatment, including beating, whipping, torture with electric shocks and dousing with hot and cold water. Detainees are routinely denied access to lawyers.

Although Israel asserts that it is not responsible for Khiam Detention Centre, and directs all inquiries to the SLA, it is the occupying power in south Lebanon and therefore responsible in international law for what occurs in the area.

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

- seeking assurances that Ali Hassan Qassem, Fahd Saleh and Fadila Mohammad Tahini will not be tortured or ill-treated in any way during their detention;
- 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 91007, Israel  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel**  
**Faxes: + 972 2 566 4838 / 691 7915**  
**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

Brigadier General Uri Shoham  
Judge Advocate General  
6 David Elazar Street  
Hakirya, Tel Aviv, Israel  
**Telegrams: Judge Advocate General, Tel Aviv, Israel**

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**Faxes: + 972 3 569 4370**

**Salutation: Dear Brigadier 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 25 October 1999.