

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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10 April 1987

Lebanese nationals arrested by Syrian security forces in Lebanon
(Up-date to AI Index MDE 24/09/86 of 14 August 1986)

According to Amnesty International's information, 31 Lebanese nationals, who were arrested by Syrian security forces in Tripoli, Beirut and the Beka' valley between February and October 1986, continue to be held without trial. Eighteen of these detainees were among a group of 33 on whose behalf Amnesty International appealed to the Syrian authorities in August 1986 (see AI Index MDE 24/09/86, List B, Lebanese citizens arrested by Syrian security forces). Amnesty International has received the names of 13 other detainees who were not previously known to the organization (see attached list). Many of the detainees are believed to be held in the Fir' Falastin (Palestine Branch) in Damascus, under the jurisdiction of al-Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence). Some of them are reported to have been tortured during detention (see below).

Releases

Amnesty International has learnt that the 15 individuals listed below have been released from detention. They were among a list of 33 people of Lebanese nationality arrested by Syrian security forces in Tripoli, Lebanon between February and June 1986 (see AI Index MDE 24/09/86). Except where indicated, Amnesty International does not have the exact dates of release and nor is the organization aware of the reasons for their release or of their state of health after release. However, according to Amnesty International's information, they were all released in late 1986.

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|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Ahmad Hawi, released January 1987 | (no. 5 on original list) |
| 2. Riad Marhaba, released December 1986 | (no. 7 " " ") |
| 3. Tariq Marhaba, released December 1986 | (no. 8 " " ") |
| 4. Dabbah 'Uthman | (no. 10 " " ") |
| 5. 'Abdallah Yaser al-Shami | (no. 12 " " ") |
| 6. 'Afif al-'Atr | (no. 16 " " ") |
| 7. Nabil al-Samman | (no. 17 " " ") |
| 8. Faruq Hamami | (no. 18 " " ") |
| 9. Fadi'l Rima | (no. 20 " " ") |
| 10. Sami al-Naw | (no. 21 " " ") |
| 11. 'Umran Yasin | (no. 22 " " ") |
| 12. Alif al-'Atr | (no. 25 " " ") |
| 13. Safwan Huwari | (no. 26 " " ") |
| 14. 'Ali Warrur | (no. 31 " " ") |
| 15. Ahmad Khadr Agha | (no. 32 " " ") |

Amnesty International has received no further information on the 18 individuals included on the original list who remain in detention, and continues to be concerned that they remain in detention without charge or

trial.

Arrests

Amnesty International has received the names of a further 13 Lebanese nationals reported to have been arrested by Syrian security forces in 1986 (See attached list). Amnesty International does not have details of the exact dates of arrest of all these individuals, although four of them are known to have been arrested in September and October. According to Amnesty International's information none has been charged or tried.

Allegations of torture

According to reports received by Amnesty International, one of the detainees, Tariq Marhaba, was tortured while in detention and suffered a heart attack as a result of his ill-treatment. He was released in December. The organization has previously expressed its concern at reports that some detainees have been subjected to ill-treatment during detention, and has requested the Syrian authorities to take immediate steps to investigate such reports and to give assurances that the humane treatment and physical safety of all detainees be guaranteed. To date, Amnesty International has received no response from the Syrian authorities.

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LEBANESE NATIONALS ARRESTED BY SYRIAN SECURITY FORCES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of arrest</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Occupation/Other Information</u>
1. Radwan Burhan Yasin	2 June 1986	29	Tripoli	Owns furniture shop; married
2. 'Amer Salman Barudi	11 June 1986	43	Tripoli	Shipping agent; married - two children
3. Shawqi Kusa	14 June 1986	31	Tripoli	Employee in electrical company
4. Khadr Khadr Agha	10 June 1986	30	Tripoli	Assistant to pharmacist; married - two children
5. Samir Mutraji	13 June 1986	33	Tripoli	Employee in a bank; married - two children
6. Ghasub 'Uthman	12 June 1986	32	Tripoli	Guard; married - three children
7. Nazhir Danun	14 June 1986	53	Tripoli	Sweet seller; married - six children
8. Haitham Yaser al-Shami	2 June 1986	27	Tripoli	Labourer
9. Walid al-Masri	14 June 1986	33	Tripoli	Primary school teacher and driver; married - four children
10. 'Azzam 'Akkari	10 June 1986	29	Tripoli	Bank employee; married
11. Mustafa al-Qusair	12 June 1986	36	Tripoli	Teacher; married - two children
12. Taital al-Rifa'i	20 March 1986	30	Beirut	Newspaper distribution agent; suffering from a broken leg; married

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Arrest</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Occupation/Other Information</u>
13. Saji' Farahat	6 April 1986	44	Beirut	Driver; married - five children
14. Ahmad Rajab	10 June 1986	30	Tripoli	Unemployed due to injured thigh; single
15. Tala' al-Lawn	10 June 1986	25	Tripoli	Marine labourer; married - two children
16. 'Abd al-Majid Maghrabi	16 June 1986	39	Tripoli	Tailor; married - four children
17. Salem Maghrabi	16 June 1986	33	Tripoli	primary school teacher; married - two children
18. Hassan al-Sahili	February 1986	41	Tripoli	Journalist
19. Nihad al-Halabi	-	-	Tripoli	-
20. Walhan Ra'ad	-	-	Tripoli	-
21. 'Abd al-Rahman Ghiyya	-	-	Tripoli	-
22. Ahmad al-Ayyubi	-	-	Tripoli	-
23. Mundhir Ma'aliqi	-	-	Tripoli	Believed to be detained in the town of 'Anjar in the Beka' Valley
24. Yahya al-Qabut	-	-	Tripoli	-
25. Wa'el Haddad	-	-	Tripoli	-
26. Nasir Amin	-	-	Tripoli	-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Arrest</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Occupation/Other Information</u>
27. Muhammad Qashqash	-	-	Tripoli	-
28. Fu'ad Musa	11 October 1986	-	Beirut	Law student; arrested at Beirut Airport
29. Hassan Qais	October 1986	-	Beka'	Small landowner
30. Fa'iz al-Qais	6 September 1986	41	Beirut	Secondary school teacher; his wife, Hiba Sulaiman, a 38 year old employee of Beirut municipality, was arrested on 7 November 1986 but released in January 1987.
31. 'Ali Musa	10 October 1986	-	Beirut	University student

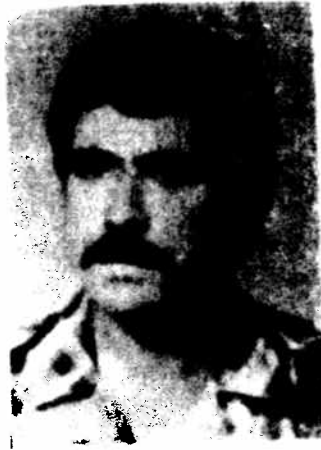
NB. Numbers 19-31 on the list (marked *): the names of these detainees were previously unknown to AI and did not appear on the previous action relating to Lebanese nationals arrested by Syrian security forces (AI Index: MDE 24/09/86) of August 1986.

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ESE NATIONALS ARRESTED BY SYRIAN SECURITY FORCES



Ahman Ghiyya



Chasub Uthman



Ian Ra'ad



Ahmad al-Ayyubi



Nihad al-Halabi

.../...

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Radwan Yassin



Salem al-Maghribi



Haitham al-Shami



'Abd al-Majid al-Maghribi



Khadr Khadr Agha



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1987 VOLUME XVII NUMBER 2

SYRIA

Lebanese nationals held

A group of 34 Lebanese nationals arrested by Syrian forces in Lebanon continue to be held without trial in Damascus. Several are said to have been tortured.

They were among a group of 52 Lebanese nationals arrested between February and November 1986. Most are believed to have been arrested in the northern city of Tripoli during the first two weeks of June. Eighteen have reportedly since been released.

The 34 include teachers, students, journalists and labourers. Among them are Talal al-Rifa'i, a 30-year-old newspaper distribution agent from Beirut, said to have a broken leg when he was arrested, Amer Salman Barudi, a 43-year-old shipping agent from Tripoli and Muhammad Walid 'Abd al-Salam al-Masri, a 33-year-old primary school teacher from Tripoli.

Initial reports suggested that they may have been arrested because of criticism of Syrian policy both in Lebanon and towards the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In August 1986, AI appealed to the Syrian authorities for information about the detainees, but received no response. AI subsequently learned that several other people were detained between September and November 1986.

AI has also urged the Syrian

authorities to investigate reports that some of the detainees were tortured or ill-treated following arrest. Tariq Marhaba, a 35-year-old teacher from Tripoli arrested on 15 June, is reported to have had a heart attack after being severely tortured.

At the beginning of 1987, AI was investigating reports that Syrian troops carried out widespread arrests, after conducting house-to-house searches, in Tripoli and neighbouring villages during the last week of December 1986. □