

Mrs. Wedad Halwani
Dar al-Aman Bldg.
Ibn Manzour Street
Ras al-Nabei
Beirut
Lebanon

Herentals, 26 March 1998.

Dear Mrs. Wedad Halwani,

We are members of a local group of Amnesty International in Belgium. Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for human rights. The organisation is independent of all governments and political ideologies. On behalf of Amnesty International we are giving support on a long campaign to establish the fate and whereabouts and legal status of ten individuals, mentioned below, who "disappeared" between September 1982 and August 1983. They were allegedly abducted by the Lebanese Forces.

Amnesty International is opposed to the "disappearance" of prisoners in all cases. The term "disappearance" is used when people are arrested or kidnapped by government agents, but the authorities deny that these people are being detained. All people held in detention have the right to have their physical and mental integrity respected and protected, to be promptly informed of the charges against them, and to be granted prompt access to relatives, legal counsel and medical treatment. Whenever people are held in unacknowledged detention, the risk of their being ill-treated, tortured and extrajudicially killed is increased.

Our goals in this file are to support your efforts to urge the Lebanese Government to set up a independent and public commission of inquiry to establish the fate of the "disappeared" and to determine the appropriateness of the compensation for victims and their families, to establish contact with the victims' relatives and assist them in their efforts to locate them, to create publicity around the cases of the victims, to impress the government that Amnesty International will continue to raise the cases of "disappearances" until they are resolved and all perpetrators have been brought to justice.

Therefore we will put direct pressure on the government, through letter-writing to the government authorities and Lebanese human rights groups, and publicity, in our own country and in Lebanon, and indirect pressure, by finding others who will protest, publicize and act on behalf of the victims.

We are trying to establish the whereabouts of :

1. **Muhammad Mahmoud Mansour**, born in 1955. He “disappeared” on 26 August 1983 in al-Barbir district. Muhammad Mahmoud Mansour was on vacation in Lebanon visiting his family for six weeks. He had been working in Saudi Arabia for seven years as a car spray worker. Muhammad and his friend ‘Emad were driving an Armenian person to al-Jemeiza area in Muhammad’s car. ‘Emad left his car at al-Barbir and they never returned. Two months later the Armenian person was taken to the police by other drivers who had identified him and he said that Muhammad and ‘Emad had taken him to al-Jemeiza and he has no information about their fate or whereabouts. The family suspect that Muhammad and ‘Emad were abducted by the Lebanese Forces.
2. **Shawqi’Ali Jamul**, a Shi’ite Muslim, born in 1954 in Deir al-Zahrani. He “disappeared” on 16 September 1982, at Tayyar checkpoint at Khalda. A witness was in a car behind and saw the abduction. She informed Shawqi’s wife who was in hospital giving birth to her second daughter. The family contacted Lebanese officials, religious leaders and political parties but have not been able to obtain any information about Shawqi’s fate or whereabouts. Shawqi’Ali Jamul is married to Siham ‘Abd al-Amir Rahdal, and has two daughters. Fatma born in 1980 and Lara born in 1982.
3. **Hassan Muhammad Zahwi**, a Muslim, born in 1951. He “disappeared” on 5 September 1983 on the coastal road from Beirut to the south, probably in the al-Remeila area. He was a driver in Pepsi-Cola company, married and has two sons : Muhammad born in 1970 and Wa’el, born in 1981 and three daughters : Fadia born 1976, Najwa born in 1979 and Fatma born 1983.
4. **‘Issam ‘Ali Al-Masri**, a Sunni Muslim, born in 1964 in Beirut. He “disappeared” on 18 September 1982 at al-Barjawi checkpoint close to Baidoun Mosque in Ashrafiyye. ‘Issam left with his friend ‘Emad ‘Alyyan at 10 am from ‘Emad’s home to buy bread from Ashrafiyye, they did not return. His family found his car at al-Majlis al-Hizbi. He was single, lived with his parents ‘Ali Ahmed al-Masri and Nazmiyya Ahmed al-Jeneidi. He was training to become a car electrician.
5. **Mohie Ed-Din Hashisho**, born in 1927. He was arrested on 14 September 1982 at 11 am at his home in Sidon by approximately 20 armed in military uniform. Some of them were identified by Mohie Ed-Din Hashisho’s family. They reportedly included Nasser Mahfouz, Sa’id Qazhia, Bassem Joseph Safy, Dani Joseph Safi, George Haidar Bu-Haidar and Sham’oun Haidar bu-Haidar. They asked Mohie Ed-Din Hashisho to go with them for questioning after which he will return. He was reportedly detained at Thakanat Kafr Falouss that was controlled by the Lebanese Forces, it’s commander was Deib Anastas. The family later received unconfirmed reports that he may have been moved to al-Majlis al-Hizbi. Mohie Ed-Din Hashisho was married to Najat Neqouzi Hashisho and has two sons, Usama born 1964 and Mazen born 1973 and two daughters Huda born 1967 and Mona born 1971. He was teacher of Arabic literature at al-Maqassid al-Khairiyya al-Islamiyya secondary school. He was also secretary of the communist party in Sidon, vice-chairman of the private school teachers’ union and a member of the south Lebanon cultural centre and the Arab teachers’ union.

6. Samia Muhammad Al-Mahmoud, a Palestinian Muslim, born in 1958. She "disappeared" on 5 September 1982 at al-Mathaf area, Beirut. She was single, a medical student and on her way to Beqa'a and from there to Syria to travel to Moscow with three friends to continue their studies. According to the driver who was with them, they were abducted by the Lebanese Forces.
7. Muhammad Abu Zeid, born 1943, Hamza Muhammad Abu Zeid, born 1965, Tayssir Muhammad Abu Zeid, born 1964, Nasser Muhammad Abu Zeid, born 1967, a family of Palestinian origin, nationality under review, Muslim. A father and his three sons, who "disappeared" on 17 September 1982 at 4 pm. The Abu Zeid family were fleeing after they heard of the Sabra and Shatila massacres. They got a truck with others who were fleeing to the Beqa'a area. They were stopped at Lebanese Forces checkpoint at Galerie Sam'aan where all the males were handcuffed and four Lebanese Forces soldiers rode in the truck with them and took them to the Carantina area. When they arrived all the males were taken to a room, blindfolded with their shirts and beaten with whips and weapons' butts. They then returned blindfolded to the truck and taken to the Dabiyeh area. The men were moved to a car that looked like an ambulance and they were beaten again. The women and children were taken to al-Barbara by the Lebanese Forces and were released.

We very much hope to establish contact with the families of the victims and offer them moral support and friendship. We wish to ask about their plans and whether they have received any new information about the case. If the family is involved in legal proceedings on behalf of the victims we should ask to be kept informed of any developments.

Therefore we want to ask you for any information of these cases that will give us the opportunity to achieve our goals. You can reach us on the following adress :

Mil Wouters
Veldstraat 26
2200 Herentals
Belgium

Or by e-mail : MILEEN@mail.dma.be

Thanking You in advance for Your co-operation in this matter,

Sincerely Yours,

VAN DE SANDT DIRK



VAN ROEY PHILIPPE



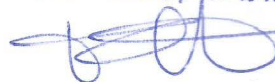
HELSEN GUY



Amour HERNIN



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