

Doris Ohlemeyer

Innsbrucker Allee 42
D-47249 Duisburg (Germany)

15 March 2000

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

Dear Mrs. Halwani,

Please find attached copy of my letter dated 14 March 2000 to the Prime Minister of your country, H.E. Salim El-Hoss. Letters with the same wording were sent to

H.E. President Emile Lahoud
H.E. Michel Murr, Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of the Interior and Municipal Affairs
H.E. Joseph Chaoul, Minister of Justice
H.E. Ghazi Zuayter, Minister of National Defence
H.E. Anwar Al-Khalil, Minister of Information
and the Affairs of Displace Persons
and also to H.E. Nabih Beri, Speaker of the National Assembly

Yours sincerely,

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His Excellency Salim El-Hoss
Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Office of the Prime Minister
Grand Sérail
Rue des Arts et Métiers
Sanayeh, Beirut
Lebanon

Your Excellency,

in my letter of 14 February 2000 I once more invited your attention to the problem of "disappearances" dating back to the Lebanese civil war. At that point in time, however, I was not aware that the Lebanese Government had decided to order a commission of inquiry to investigate the fates of the 17.415 missing persons.

I do welcome this decision by the Lebanese Government. It certainly is a step in the right direction. The relatives of the "disappeared" will be even more delighted after having campaigned for such a commission for years in order to obtain certainty about what has happened to their beloved ones.

It is, however, hard to imagine that the fates of more than 17.000 persons can be clarified with sufficient certainty within a period of three months. Such a difficult task will surely require much more time. Also, it is indispensable that the commission should be headed by independent men and women reputed for their integrity rather than by army and security people as is the case at present.

It goes without saying that the commission should be given all the necessary powers to conduct an effective investigation, including the powers to compel attendance of witnesses and production of relevant documents and to inspect any site where there may be remains of the "disappeared".

The Duisburg group of Amnesty International, whose member I am, has called for the setting up of an independent commission of inquiry for years and now urges Your Excellency for particular attention for the cases of the persons listed below:

Shawqi 'Ali Jamul, born in 1954 in Deir al-Zahrani, Shi'ite Mulim. He is married and has two daughters. He "disappeared" on 16 September 1982 at Tayyar checkpoint at Khalda.

Hassan Muhammad Zahwi, born in 1951, "disappeared" on 5 September 1983 on the coastal road from Beirut to the south, probably in the al-Remeila area.

'Issam 'Ali al-Masri, born in 1964 in Beirut, "disappeared" on 18 September 1982 at al-Barjawi checkpoint close to Baidoun Mosque in Ashrafiyye.

Mohie ed-Din Hashisho, born in 1927, "disappeared" on 14 September 1982 at 11 am. He was arrested at his home in Sidon by approximately 20 armed men in military uniform.

Muhammad Mahmoud Mansour, born in 1955, "disappeared" on 26 August 1983 in the al-Barbir district.

Samia Muhammad al-Mahmoud, born in 1958, "disappeared" on 5 September 1982 in the al-Mathaf area, Beirut.

Muhammad Abu Zeid, born in 1943 was kidnapped on 17 September 1982 by the Lebanese Forces along with his three sons **Hamza Muhammad Abu Zeid**, **Tayssir Muhammad Abu Zeid** and **Nasser Muhammad Abu Zeid**. Nothing has been heard of them since.

I wish the commission every success in its worthwhile work and hope that the findings will be made public in detail.

Yours most respectfully,

Joris Alkhuway

LUFTPOST
PAR AVION
PRIORITAIRE

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