



**NEW HUMAN RIGHTS -
International**

*(Advisor to ECOSOC - United
Nations)*

Mission to Lebanon



CALL TO ACTION

Addressed to Lebanese civil society

Situation:

As you know, many Lebanese citizens were arrested in Lebanon and are being held today in Syria without judicial due process.

The Israeli Army has similarly carried out abductions, as well as massive and illegal extraditions of Lebanese citizens from South Lebanon and into Israeli territory.

At present, there are 12 Lebanese citizens who are being arbitrarily held in Israel, and several hundred others have disappeared.

Under international law, Syrian and Israeli authorities are forbidden from carrying out arrests in Lebanese territory, and they are under even stricter requirements not to transfer any arrested individuals into Syria or Israel, irrespective of the reasons behind the arrests.

The Lebanese justice system and its courts have the sole jurisdiction to handle Lebanese individuals charged with crimes inside Lebanon.

Moreover, and according to the «Principle of Non-Extradition of Nationals », Lebanon itself does not have the right to agree to these extraditions.

However, a conspiracy of silence is in effect concerning these issues.

On **June 7, 2002**, the mandate of the « Inquiry Commission on Disappearances » established by the HARIRI government will expire. Minister Fuad ES SAAD, who is leading the commission, must submit a report on measures taken to uncover the fate of missing Lebanese citizens, and steps taken to seek the release of those held without due process in Syria and Israel.

Since January 2001, this commission has been extending its mandate every 6 months, even though it has all the necessary information to order inquiries and officially demand answers from Syria and Israel. The Lebanese government is in fact, according to international law, under obligation to provide answers to the families of detained and missing individuals.

More than a humanitarian issue, this question is a legal matter. It is not a political issue.

It is also a matter of national significance, which is why we issue this call to action.

Call to Action :

No one in Lebanon, irrespective of their political, social, or religious affiliation must accept the violation of basic individual human rights, whatever the justification. As clearly shown by the recent, yet to be explained, assassination of Mr. Ramzi IRANI, the Lebanese people have unanimously protested in unity to denounce this flagrant injustice.

The arbitrary detentions and disappearances executed by the Syrian and Israeli armed forces remain an unacceptable injustice, as much for the victims of these abductions as for their families.

We call upon you, **before this June 7**, to demand that the mandate of the inquiry commission not be extended, and that its findings be released to public opinion.

Call on the Syrian authorities to repatriate all Lebanese citizens that they arrested in Lebanon.

Call on the Israeli authorities to unconditionally release all Lebanese hostages they hold in Israel, and to return the remains of those who have died in detention.

**TOGETHER,
LET US REJECT INJUSTICE,
LET US REJECT THESE VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**

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