



Lebanese detainees in Syrian prisons

Lebanese detainees in Syrian prisons

Printing History:

January 2003

First Edition

Contact:

Rassemblement Canadien pour le Liban (RCPL)
Division des droits de l'homme – Human rights division
Place Élysée C. P. 132
Laval (Québec) H7W 4K2
Tel : (514) 205-4226
Email : info@rcplonline.org

Web site: www.rcplonline.org

Copyright © 2003 RCPL All rights reserved.

Note: This research document is prepared by the Rassemblement Canadien Pour le Liban (RCPL). All rights reserved. For reasons of security, no part of this document may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system or shared with individuals and organizations without the prior consent of RCPL.

Table of Contents

	Page
1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. LIST OF DETAINEES.....	5
2.1 From 1976 To 1979	5
2.2 From 1980 To 1989	6
2.3 Since 1990.....	11
3. STATISTIC	13
REFERENCES	15

1. INTRODUCTION

Since 1975, thousands of Lebanese citizens have been arbitrarily detained in Syrian jails. The Lebanese government has formed a committee to follow the whereabouts of those detainees. Parents and families of people who have disappeared have filled up about 20,000 applications. Currently, non-exhaustive lists report about 300 detainees in Syrian jails, among them, 58 since 1990, including two priests and 36 soldiers from the Lebanese Army. They have been detained by the Syrian army in Lebanon, or by Syrian allied militias in different regions of Lebanon during the war or in direct conflicts with the Lebanese army. Even after the end of military hostilities in 1990, the Syrian army proceeded, arbitrarily and illegally, to the arrest and transfer of many Lebanese citizens to Syrian jails. Lebanese security agents often aided them. It is known that most of these detainees are held arbitrarily, with no trial, forbidden to contact their relatives or their lawyers and regularly subjected to different ways of torture including electrical shocks, beating, deprivation of food, water and medical care.

The Syrian and the Lebanese governments kept denying the existence of Lebanese detainees in Syrian prisons although many testimonies, particularly from parents and families who visited them in prisons, confirm their presence. The presence of these detainees was further confirmed from different sources including members of parliament and Syrian human rights activists. In August 2000, the Daily Star (Beirut) published statements by Boutros Harb, a Lebanese member of parliament, calling for Syria to release Lebanese citizens illegally held in Syrian prisons. "We demand that the files of Lebanese detainees in Syrian jails be opened in order to permanently settle this issue, the reasons behind their arrests and their trials, before a court of law", said Harb, one of the only Lebanese members of parliament to address this issue. "Those who were apprehended for criminal offenses should be tried according to Lebanese judicial norms and referred to Lebanese courts for trial, and those who were arrested for political reasons that do not fall under the penal code should be released [1].

A press conference held in Paris by a Syrian ex-detainee, Mr. Nizar Nayouf, a Syrian journalist and activist for human rights in Syria, revealed the existence of hundreds of Lebanese detainees in Syrian prisons, as well as thousands buried in mass graves who likely died from hard torture. In the year 2000, the Lebanese government tried to force thousands of parents of detainees to sign papers admitting the death of their relatives following the appointment of a committee to inquire about Lebanese detainees by Syrian authorities,. However, in December 2000, the Syrian authorities proceeded to the release of many Lebanese detainees, thereby contradicting previous denials of the Lebanese and Syrian governments that no Lebanese detainee was in a Syrian jail.

Until today, thousands of Lebanese citizens are believed to be buried in mass graves in Syria, and an unknown number is still detained in Syrian jails. In this report, around 300 cases have been documented as shown below. This number is certainly non exhaustive.

2. LIST OF DETAINEES

2.1 From 1976 To 1979

Name	Date of Abduction
Antoine Michel Mezher	16-Jan-1976
Elias Emile Harmoush	16-Jan-1976
Samih Abd al-Rahman Muneymana	1-Jun-1976
Samir Samy Ramih Saad	6-Oct-1976
Imad Najib Haidar	1-Dec-1976
Chaheen Chaker al-Hayek	22-Jan-1978
Tanious Youssef Elias	9-Feb-1978
Bechara Tanious Roumieh	1-Mar-1978
Tanious Ibrahim Al-Tayyar	27-May-1978
Fadi Jirjis Karam	1-Jul-1978
Antoine Elias Taweel	7-Jul-1978
Joseph Elias Saba'a	7-Jul-1978
Malaki Youssef Shmeit	7-Jul-1978
Stavro Elie Andriotti	7-Jul-1978
Nadim Mirii Mirii	28-Aug-1978
Assaf Jiryess Roukoz Mrad	22-Sep-1978
Jamal Riyad Houhou	31-Dec-1978
Abdel reda Shehaddy Barbish	1978
Fareed Youssef Hanna	1978
Joseph Elias Al-Houwayyek	1978
Mohamed Taan Nasrallah	1978
Nasser Deeb Qaafarani	1978
Estephan Massoud Iskandar	6-Sep-1979
Chaheedeh Youssef Al-Indaree	23-Sep-1979
Qostantine Antonious Al-Indaree	23-Sep-1979

2.2 From 1980 To 1989

Name	Date of Abduction
Qouzhaia Farid Chehwan	22-Jul-1980
Rene Tannous Mouawwad	20-Nov-1980
Aly Moussa Abdallah	1981
Edward Kamil Al Khoury	16-Mar-1982
Antoine Ghaleb Al-Khazzaka	21-Jun-1982
Said Kayyal	21-Jun-1982
Maroun Yousef Al-Khoury	16-Jul-1982
Charbel Elias Sarrouf	6-Sep-1982
Georges Elias Lahoud	1-Nov-1982
Hassoun Amin Hassoun	2-Nov-1982
Amin Ghandour	1982
George Youssef Abi Nakkad	1982
Hanna Mrad Sleiman	1982
Houssein Khodr Oumeirat	1982
Waleed Mahmoud Zarkout	1982
Eid Antoine Sarkis	10-Feb-1983
Hassan Awad	1-Mar-1983
Joseph Nazeeh Al-Zarka	1-Mar-1983
Joseph Hanna Awad	28-Mar-1983
Nabih Youssef Is'haq	30-Mar-1983
Tanious Ibrahim Al-Shidyaq	21-May-1983
Salwa Michel Al-Habr	1-Aug-1983
Milad Habib Yousefr	29-Aug-1983
Alfred Jirjis Al-Habr	1-Sep-1983
Elias Michel Al-Habr	1-Sep-1983
Wael Haddad	1-Sep-1983
Elie Ibrahim Al Sabak	3-Sep-1983
Maroun Edward Mousallem	4-Sep-1983
Bechara Saleh Sarrouf	5-Sep-1983
Maroun Elias Al-Khoury	6-Sep-1983
Ally Mouhamad Ahmad Housein	23-Sep-1983
Charbel Tanious Zoughaib	3-Oct-1983
George Mikhail Awad	22-Oct-1983
Amer Ahmad Al tourkoumany	25-Oct-1983
Issam Hassib Kiidy	26-Oct-1983
Karim Maroun Chahla	28-Oct-1983
Hisham Ramadan	29-Oct-1983
Mouhamad Mahmoud Al Sultan	29-Oct-1983
Youssef Salim Al Gharib	3-Nov-1983
Khaled Abdel Latif Al Kourdy	15-Dec-1983

Name	Date of Abduction
Salem Abdel Latif Al Kourdy	15-Dec-1983
Antoine Semaan Saliba	21-Dec-1983
John Semaan Saliba	21-Dec-1983
Daoud Youssef Lahoud	24-Dec-1983
Robert Badry Rokouz	Dec
Amin Abou Rjeily	1983
Fouad Abou Rjeily	1983
Riyad Youssef Geagea	1983
Amin Gabriel al-Deek	18-Feb-1984
Joseph Jamil Faris	22-Feb-1984
Elias Michel Abdel Nour	8-Mar-1984
Nabih Youssef Isshak	31-Mar-1984
Ibrahim Melhem Jabr	12-Apr-1984
Goerge Abdo Nehme	1-May-1984
Samir Jirjis Nassrallah	26-Jun-1984
Youssef Nakhleh Al-Kallas	26-Jun-1984
Edward Sfeir	1-Aug-1984
Fouad Sawma Haddad	1-Aug-1984
George Qazzi	1-Aug-1984
Omar Ahmad Al khodr	7-Aug-1984
Antoine Asa'ad Makhoul	29-Aug-1984
Fadi Elie Ghoulam	30-Oct-1984
Salman Aly Al ziz	1-Nov-1984
Elie Abou Nader	21-Nov-1984
Karam Youssef Morkos	21-Nov-1984
Ziad Youssef Morkos	21-Nov-1984
Hassan Al-Saheli	16-Dec-1984
Adel Kamal Dib	17-Dec-1984
Caesar Elias Caesar Eid	22-Dec-1984
Atta Mahmoud Al-Abdallah	1984
Dara Mohamed Al-Badn	1984
Elias Maima Saab	1984
Malek Yassine Agha Kalthoum	1984
Claude Hanna Houry	20-Jan-1985
George Joseph Al-Asmar	9-Feb-1985
Albert Nichola	13-Feb-1985
Jack Abi Mrad	13-Feb-1985
Shoukrallah Touma	13-Feb-1985
Habib Nabil Abi Abdalla	25-Apr-1985
Qouzhayya Karam Dagher	28-Apr-1985
Ibrahim Khalil Haddad	9-Jul-1985
Elias Nichola Al-Shayib	19-Aug-1985

Name	Date of Abduction
George Malik Hanna	10-Sep-1985
Jiryess Nimr Jiryess	1-Nov-1985
Ziad Qamar	18-Nov-1985
Aghi Camille Roukoz	1985
Ahmed Mohamed Sabha	1985
Florence Michel Raad	1985
Mohamed Ahmed Nahleh	1985
Rashid Ahmad Al Khalil	1985
Darar Abd Al Qadr	6-Mar-1986
Saje'e Farhat	6-Apr-1986
Radwan Bourhan Yassine	2-Jun-1986
Faez Al-Qeiss	6-Jun-1986
Ahmed Hawi	10-Jun-1986
Khodr Khodr Agha	10-Jun-1986
Amer Salman Baroudi	11-Jun-1986
Ghossoub Othman	12-Jun-1986
Moustafa Al-Qaseer	12-Jun-1986
Chawki Koussa	14-Jun-1986
Nazeer Zannoun	14-Jun-1986
Walid Al-Masri	14-Jun-1986
Salim Moughrabi	16-Jun-1986
Shamel Hussein Kenaan	18-Jun-1986
Toufik Salim Al Jamal:	24-Jul-1986
Hassan Tayy	16-Aug-1986
Hassan Qeiss	1-Oct-1986
Ahmad Abd Al rassoul Daboouk	6-Nov-1986
Ali Al-Ad	1-Dec-1986
Khodr Habbal	1-Dec-1986
Saeed Al-Moughrabi	1-Dec-1986
George Adib Al-Ghannaj	6-Dec-1986
Hashim Minqara	26-Dec-1986
Mohamed Al-Andouri	29-Dec-1986
Ahmed Saleh	1986
Alexander Antraneek Hermedyan	1986
Ali Ahmed Mer'eb	1986
Elias Tanious Lahhoud	1986
Ibrahim Khalil Hirshi	1986
Junior Alfred Kittaneh	1986
Mohamed Ali Sa'adieh	1986
Mohamed Fayez al-Sayyed	1986
Mohamed Salim Al-Helou	1986
Nafiz Naji Al-Deen Al-Jasim	1986

Name	Date of Abduction
Abdel-Karim Boulaz	22-Feb-1987
Abdel-Karim Itani	22-Feb-1987
Ahmed Al-Siba'ee	22-Feb-1987
Ahmed Harb	22-Feb-1987
Ahmed Mohamed Shaaban	22-Feb-1987
Bilal Abou Nader	22-Feb-1987
Ibrahim Kalash	22-Feb-1987
Majid Abbas	22-Feb-1987
Nidal Omar	22-Feb-1987
Salwa Shaaban	22-Feb-1987
Talal Al-Rifa'ee	22-Feb-1987
Ziad Itani	22-Feb-1987
Hassan Al-Houjeiri	1-Mar-1987
Khaled Habboub	1-Mar-1987
Tanal Al-Houjeiri	1-Mar-1987
Abdel-Rahman Mouselmani	13-Mar-1987
Ahmed Ali Ahmed	1-Apr-1987
Khalil Amine Abou Zakky	15-Jun-1987
Samir Fouad al-Sayyegh	8-Sep-1987
Houssam al-Bacha	1-Oct-1987
Abdel-Hameed Ahmed	1987
Antoine Michel Sarhan	1987
Elie Farid Abou Nader	1987
Mahmoud Saleh	1987
Walid Salem Al-Rifa'ee	1987
George Nichola Salloum	27-Mar-1988
Ahmed Chihadeh	1-Apr-1988
Darweesh Darweesh	1-Apr-1988
Izz al-Deen Chahine	1-Apr-1988
Ja'afar Ibrahim	1-Apr-1988
Mohsen Youssef	1-Apr-1988
George Salah Mja'ess	5-May-1988
Ahmed Abi-Ra'ad	1-Sep-1988
Hachem al-Azzawee	1-Sep-1988
Ali Al-Houjeiri	1-Oct-1988
Hassan al-Baalbaki	1-Oct-1988
Hassan Moustafa	1-Oct-1988
Houssein Amin	1-Oct-1988
Jamal Chihadeh	1-Oct-1988
Jawad Handous	1-Oct-1988
Saeb Hammoud	1-Oct-1988
Tale'e Halawi	1-Oct-1988

Name	Date of Abduction
Ahmed Yaghi	1-Nov-1988
Bashir al-Breidi	1-Nov-1988
Mahmoud Ramadan	1-Nov-1988
Abbas al-Breidi	30-Nov-1988
Ghalib Mahmoud Al-Sheikh	15-Dec-1988
Ali Mohamed Akl	24-Dec-1988
Afif Solh	25-Dec-1988
Hassan Ahmed Solh	25-Dec-1988
Houssein Ali Solh	25-Dec-1988
Khalid Houssein Solh	25-Dec-1988
Khalil Mohamed Solh	25-Dec-1988
Mounzir Hleihel	25-Dec-1988
Moustafa Mohamed Solh	25-Dec-1988
Nawwaf Solh	25-Dec-1988
Tony Youssef Metanious Mattar	25-Dec-1988
Ahmed Wehbe	31-Dec-1988
Elias Ibrahim Jirjis	1988
Iskandar Farhat Haykal	1988
Jamal Bakeesh	1988
Mahmoud Aswad	1988
Mohamed Khodr Harrouk	1988
Riyad Mohamed	1-Jan-1989
Nazih Yaghi	10-Jan-1989
Ali Zein al-Deen	29-Jan-1989
Abdel-Hafeez Uleiwan	1-Feb-1989
Moustafa Kanaan	2-Feb-1989
Mohamed Ghorli	23-Feb-1989
Jamal Abdul Salam Yassine	10-Mar-1989
Samir Ali Hassan	26-Apr-1989
Milad Naoum Al Khoury	16-May-1989
Khaled Said Farhat	6-Jun-1989
George Emile Zaher	7-Aug-1989
George Emile Zaher	7-Aug-1989
Claude August Gerard	4-Oct-1989
Ali Saeed Al-Hajj	1989
Mohamed Saeed Seif al-Deen	1989

2.3 Since 1990

Name	Date of Abduction
Adel Khalaf Ajouri	5-May-1990
Raiif Fouad Dagher	6-Jun-1990
Elie Khalil Mansour	10-Jun-1990
Antoine Zakhour Zakhour	13-Oct-1990
Doumit Sleiman Ibrahim	13-Oct-1990
Elias Youssef Aoun	13-Oct-1990
Elie Karim Wehbe	13-Oct-1990
Elie Saad Al-Haddad	13-Oct-1990
Father Albert Sherfane	13-Oct-1990
Father Sleiman Abou Khalil	13-Oct-1990
George Mtanos Bashoor	13-Oct-1990
Jack Hanna Nakhoul	13-Oct-1990
Jihad George Eid	13-Oct-1990
Johnny Salem Nassif	13-Oct-1990
Joseph Deeb Al-Akiki	13-Oct-1990
Marwan Riyad Mishaalani	13-Oct-1990
Michel Gerges Al-Batah	13-Oct-1990
Milad Youssef Al-Alam	13-Oct-1990
Naji Elias Al-Hindi	13-Oct-1990
Khaled Moustafa Khodr	13-Oct-1990
George Milad Al Sheikh	13-Oct-1990
Robert Bou-Sarhal	13-Oct-1990
Sayed Shaheed Battoor	13-Oct-1990
Robert Bou Sarhal	13-Oct-1990
John Mickael Nakhle	13-Oct-1990
Adel Youssef Doumit	13-Oct-1990
Fouad Assaker	13-Oct-1990
John Joseph Khoury	13-Oct-1990
George Abou Haloun	13-Oct-1990
Tanios Camille el-Habr	13-Oct-1990
Tanious Sharbel Zoughieb	13-Oct-1990
Chacker Chukrallah Rizk	12-Mar-1991
Georges Mahfoud	19-Dec-1991
Youssef Tanious Semaan	1991
Milad Shehady Barakat	19-Apr-1992
Radwan Shakib Ibrahim	2-May-1992
Dani Mansourati	9-May-1992
Joseph Amine Houyais	2-Jun-1992
Assem Osman al-Mostarah	1-Aug-1992

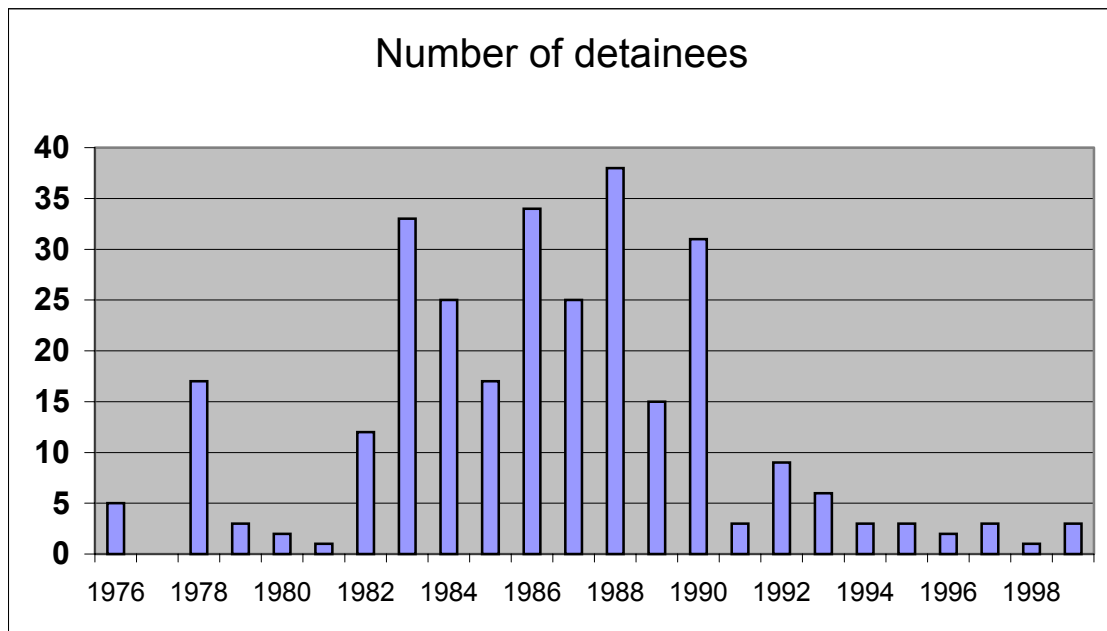
Name	Date of Abduction
Issam Uthman al-Mistrah	8-Aug-1992
Boutros Khawand	15-Sep-1992
Khadija Yihya Boukhara	28-Sep-1992
Elias Letfallah Tanious	15-Dec-1992
Arz Antoine Sarkis	10-Feb-1993
Jamil Deeb	7-Jul-1993
Tony Gerges Tamer	7-Jul-1993
Samir Mikhael El-Hajj	1993
Joseph Jirjis Abi-Najm	1993
Nabil Fawwaz	1993
George Ayoub Shalweet	30-Mar-1994
Nabil Georges Semaan	7-Jul-1994
Nimmer Naddaf	27-Jul-1994
Saeb Hamad Khalil Soued	1-Mar-1995
Albert Jaber Atallah Loh	22-Nov-1995
Ally Farhat	1995
Dr. Ahmad Hamad	18-Jun-1996
Bassam Jirjis Semaan	1996
Najib Youssef Al-Jaramani	24-Jan-1997
Rashid Hassan	1-Feb-1997
Abdallah Ahmad Chhadeh	8-Sep-1997
Tony Mikhail Zakkour	20-Feb-1998
Ally Issa	26-Feb-1999
Mohammed Al-Choufi	3-Mar-1999
Izzat Yasin	13-Sep-1999
Henri Badih Daou	11-Oct-2002

3. STATISTIC

Table 1
Number of Lebanese detainees in Syrian prisons per year from 1976 till 2002

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Unknown	Total
1976	2					1				1		1		5
1977														
1978	1	1	1		1		5	1	1			1	5	17
1979									3					3
1980							1				1			2
1981													1	1
1982			1			2	1		1		2		5	12
1983		1	4		1			2	8	7	1	6	3	33
1984		2	2	1	1	2		5		1	4	3	4	25
1985	1	4		2			1	1	1		2		5	17
1986			1	1		12	1	1		1	1	6	10	34
1987		12	4	1		1			1	1			5	25
1988			1	5	1				2	8	4	12	5	38
1989	3	3	1	1	1	1		2		1			2	15
1990					1	2				28				31
1991			1									1	1	3
1992				1	2	1		2	2			1		9
1993		1					2						3	6
1994			1				2							3
1995			1								1		1	3
1996						1							1	2
1997	1	1							1					3
1998		1												1
1999		1	1						1					3
2000														
2001														
2002											1			1
Total														292

Figure 1
Histogram of the number of Lebanese detainees in Syrian prisons per year from 1976 till 2002



REFERENCES

[1] Middle East Intelligence bulletin, "Harb calls on Syria to free Lebanese detainees", vol2 No5, 5/8/2000, http://www.meib.org/articles/0008_lb.php#lb5 accessed 10/1/2002.

[2] Committee to Support Lebanese in Detention & Exile, "S.O.L.I.D.E." 5-2-2001 <http://www.syrian-prison.com/texts/listdetainees.htm> accessed on January 19, 2003

[3] Syrian Human Rights Committee – SHRC - [Lebanese Detainees](http://www.shrc.org/english/detainees/lebanese/lebanese_detainees.htm) http://www.shrc.org/english/detainees/lebanese/lebanese_detainees.htm accessed on January 19, 2003