

Intended To: the United Nations, the European Parliament, the International Commission, all concerned in Human Rights
Worldwide campaign
Save the Lebanese detainees in Syria

We, undersigned... acknowledge that:

- Since 1976, and during 28 years, the Syrian forces have perpetrated arbitrary detentions and kidnapping against thousands of Lebanese citizens, and have transferred them to the Syrian jails, with total disregard for the rule of the Lebanese and International laws. Some of the detainees were released, others died in custody, and the rest of them are still enduring the cruelty of the Syrian prisons.
- The Lebanese and the Syrian authorities have always denied the detention of Lebanese in Syrian jails. The release of 121 detainees in March 6, 1998, and that of 54 others in January 12, 2000 contradicted this.
- The Lebanese authorities are dealing scantily with this issue, and endeavoring to close it. That was the exact purpose of the 1st and the 2nd governmental commission respectively headed by general Salim Abou Ismail and minister Fouad El Saad.
- The Syrian authorities' continual denial of the detention of Lebanese in Syria could not convince the international authorities. The European parliament adopted a resolution on March 17, 1998, and reaffirmed it on January 17, 2003, calling for the termination of the tragedy of the Lebanese detainees in Syria. The Human Rights Committee at the United Nations also recommended on April 6, 2001 the formation of an independent commission in order to investigate into the cases of enforced disappearances perpetrated by the Syrian forces on the Lebanese territories.

According to The Universal Declaration for Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances are considered crimes against humanity. Thus, we urge the international community, especially the United Nation and the European Commission, to take action in order to realize:

- The immediate release of all the Lebanese who are still detained in the Syrian prisons.
- The entrance of the International Red Cross and the humanitarian organizations to the Syrian prisons in order to confirm that no more Lebanese are still in detention there.
- The repatriation of the remains of those who died in detention because of illness or torture, and of those who were executed.
- The formation of an international commission to investigate into the cases of 'enforced disappearances' perpetrated by the Syrian forces against Lebanese citizens.
- The publication of a detailed list of the names of all the Lebanese who were arrested by the Syrian forces since 1976 and to date.

Sincerely,
Former Lebanese detainee in Syria
Ali Abou Dehn