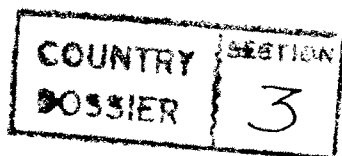


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Amnesty International  
International Secretariat  
1 Easton Street  
London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

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LEBANON:

ARBITRARY ARRESTS, "DISAPPEARANCES" AND EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

BY SYRIAN TROOPS AND SYRIAN-BACKED FORCES IN TRIPOLI

Amnesty International has received reports that over 200 people were killed by Syrian troops and Syrian-backed forces in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli in the third week of December 1986. The reports indicate that many of these were deliberate killings which could not be attributed to fighting. Hundreds of people are also reported to have been arrested in the city and neighbouring villages and others to have "disappeared" in the same period, and their fate and current whereabouts remain unknown.

The killings took place over a 36-hour period on 21 and 22 December. According to reports received by the organization, 15 Syrian soldiers were killed on 19 December following an attack on Syrian checkpoints in the city by armed militiamen. On the same day, Syrian troops closed the main Tripoli-'Akkar road to the north and the Tripoli-Beirut road to the south and sealed off the largely Sunni muslim district of al-Tabbaneh in the west of the city. At dawn on 20 December, Syrian regular troops as well as commandos from al-Wahdat al-Khassa (Special Units) headed by 'Ali Haidar entered the district from its northern, eastern and southern sides, ostensibly seeking militiamen of the Sunni muslim Harakat al-Tawhid al-Islami (Islamic Unification Movement) which was reportedly held responsible for the attack. Militiamen of two Syrian-sponsored groups, the 'Alawi al-Hizb al-'Arabi al-Dimuqrati (Arab Democratic Party), headed by 'Ali 'Eid, and al-Muqawama al-Tarabulsiyya (Tripoli Resistance), headed by Tareq Fakhreddin, were reported to have taken part in the operation.

Syrian troops stationed at road blocks at the city's main entrances prevented any suspects from leaving the area. Journalists were prevented by troops from entering al-Tabbaneh, where many of the killings and arrests took place. Ambulances attempting to reach the wounded were also allegedly prevented from entering the area for several hours in order to prevent suspects from escaping.

of al-Tabbaneh on the road leading from Duwwar Corniche al-Nahr to the city's port area.

Several hundred people in Tripoli and neighbouring areas are also reported to have been arrested by Syrian troops or to have "disappeared" since 20 December. Tripoli residents stated that some of the arrests were carried out by al-Hizb al-'Arabi al-Dimuqrati and al-Muqawama al-Tarabulsiyya, with those detained subsequently being handed over to Syrian troops. The detainees are said to include a number of militiamen of al-Tawhid al-Islami as well as others arrested on suspicion of sheltering or supporting them.

According to reports received by Amnesty International, dozens of people, many of them young Sunni males, were rounded up by Syrian troops for interrogation on 20 December in dawn raids on homes. The majority of arrests took place in al-Tabbaneh, but arrests were also reported in other districts in the city, including al-Zahriyyah, Abi Samra' and al-Mina'. Additional checkpoints were set up in various parts of the city and identity checks were carried out by Syrian troops on residents of al-Tabbaneh, where a curfew was imposed following the armed clashes.

On 25 December, Syrian troops extended their search operations to include villages in the 'Akkar Plain and the Dinniyyeh region to the north and east of Tripoli. Armed with tanks and other military vehicles, troops set up road blocks on routes leading to several villages, including Hawara, Sfiré, Bqarsouna, Sir al-Dinniyyeh, Beit al-Faqs, Qattine, 'Ain al-Tiné, Kfar Bennine, Habshit, Qab'it, Hrar, Berqayel, Bzal and Bebnine. Using helicopters to reach the mountainous areas, troops searching for arms and persons suspected of involvement in the armed clashes raided suspected Tawhid hideouts. Syrian-backed forces carried out raids on homes and according to accounts received by Amnesty International, the village mukhtars (mayors) were warned by troops against putting up any resistance to the search operations.

On 26 December Shaikh Hashem Minqara, a leading figure of al-Tawhid al-Islami, and four or five of his supporters were arrested by Syrian troops near the village of Bqarsouna in the Dinniyyeh region. Seven other of his supporters were killed in armed clashes: their bodies were taken to al-Mustashfa al-Hukumi and al-Mustashfa al-Islami in Tripoli. News of Shaikh Minqara's arrest was denied by al-Tawhid al-Islami on 29 December. However, subsequent information received corroborates the earlier reports and indicates that Shaikh Minqara is in the custody of Syrian officials. Following his arrest, he was reportedly taken to Tripoli for interrogation and three days later transferred to an unknown destination. On 29 December another leading figure of al-Tawhid al-Islami, Muhammad al-Anduri, and five others were reported to have been arrested in Wadi Jhannam (Jhannam Valley) between 'Akkar and Dinniyyeh, and taken to Tripoli for interrogation. On 30 December, Syrian troops extended their search operations to the villages of Bhannine and al-Minié in the coastal plain north of Tripoli, where a number of suspects were subsequently arrested. On 3 January 1987, search operations in the Dinniyyeh and 'Akkar regions were reported to have ended.

On 31 December Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, Chief of Syrian Military Intelligence in Lebanon, confirmed the arrest of a number of suspects in Tripoli and neighbouring areas. In a press conference held in Syrian forces' headquarters in Tripoli, Brigadier General Kan'an stated that those arrested were involved in smuggling weapons into Tripoli,

The following are the names of 34 people who were among those killed during these events. They include civilians who are alleged to have been the victims of deliberate killings. Their bodies were taken to several hospitals in Tripoli, including al-Mustashfa al-Islami, where they were later identified.

1. Walid Juraidi
2. Khalid Beiruti
3. 'Abd al-Hafiz al-Nimri
4. Ilyas Gharita
5. Ahmad Hraz
6. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-'Umar
7. Taleb Nassar
8. 'Awni al-Sankari
9. Khadr Haidar
10. Ahmad Bathish
11. Bakr al-Siddiq
12. 'Abd al-Hamid Razzuq Hassan
13. Ahmad 'Abidi
14. Khadr 'Abd al-Wahed
15. Ahmad Harruq
16. Bilal 'Abbushi
17. Radwan al-Shaikh
18. Ahmad Saleh al-Din
19. 'Ali 'Umar
20. Fu'ad Khadr al-'Ali
21. Radwan al-Masri
22. 'Ali al-'Abdallah
23. Hussain al-'Abdallah
24. Khalid Shuhaita
25. Bilal al-Hasani
26. Muhammad Hammuda
27. Hassan Shamma
28. Jamal Shaqra
29. Wahib 'Akkawi
30. Darwish 'Akkawi
31. Rashid al-'Atr
- 32.)Two brothers from
- 33.)the Hasabini family
34. Mustafa al-Qammah