



Irene Khan
Secretary General
Amnesty International Secretariat
1 Easton Street
London
WC1X 0DW

Date as postmark

Dear Secretary General

Wars and conflicts are born of ideological and political differences; or in the case of Israel are fought for existential reasons – but whatever the perspective of the outside observer; there are only truly three types of casualty – civilians, soldiers and the families of both who bear the burden of loss or the anguish of lives altered forever.

Yet long after the guns and missiles fall silent and the tragic burials of those killed; long after the slow process of rebuilding shattered lives – there remains another type of pain.

This is the pain of uncertainty, the pain of families living a different sort of tragedy – the tragedy of limbo, the grief of not knowing, the daily torment and torture of parents, wives and children unable to discover whether and if their beloved sons, husbands or fathers are alive or dead; unable to determine whether their loved ones are in good health or in physical and mental turmoil, whether they lie injured, maimed or shackled in a place of confinement or tortured daily amongst a camp of foes.

This is the unending tragedy that many families have lived with daily in Israel - the families of those servicemen Missing in Action over the last thirty years of conflict.

This letter is a plea to you – the decision makers, the policy makers, the humanitarian organizations, the International Organisations – all of you with a conscience; all of you with families, with children with parents with spouses with loved ones. All of you who possess a voice in the international arena.

I urge you upon receipt of this letter, to employ any and every legitimate effort to secure the release of Israeli MIAs.

I implore you to use whatever influence you have to bring about dialogue with the captors of these MiAs in order to secure news of their whereabouts, to unearth information on their state of health and above all – work in whatever legitimate way possible to help bring about their liberation.

Many of these are forgotten men, forgotten by foreign governments, forgotten by Non Governmental Organisations, forgotten by the world.

Continued....



I urge upon you the fates that have befallen the following;

Staff Sgt. Zecharya Baumel, Staff Sgt. Zvi Feldman and Staff Sgt. Yehuda Katz, all missing since 11 June 1982, in a battle at Sultan Yakoub, in Lebanon.

Major Ron Arad, who was captured on 16 October 1986, after his aircraft was shot down near Sidon, Lebanon. Arad was initially held by Amal (a Shi'ite terrorist organization); however his subsequent fate is still unknown.

Guy Hever, last seen at his army base on the southern Golan Heights on August 17, 1997.

Majdy Halabi, last seen at a hitchhiking stop in Dalyat El Karmel on May 24, 2005.

Cpl. Gilad Shalit was abducted by terrorists on 25 June 2006 in the course of an infiltration and attack by terrorists in the area of Kibbutz Kerem Shalom.

We in the Jewish community pray for their safe return – but our prayers should not be as voices alone blowing in the wind; we pray for your redoubled response – we pray for firm, consistent and persistent international action to bring about the release of these men, to steer them safely through the Gates of Captivity into a future of liberation, peace and happiness at the shoulders of their tortured long-suffering families.

We ask you to help re-unite them; we ask you to restore them to their roles as cherished fathers, husbands and sons. We ask you to help find a way through dialogue and persuasion to allow them once more to be embraced into the bosom of grieving relatives left behind awaiting their return.

I ask you urgently to heed my plea on their behalf and act accordingly.

This is a deed that we believe any humanitarian should work towards diligently. Many of these men and their families have suffered for years. No person should have to suffer as they do.

We beg you to act now to bring that suffering to a close and deliver peace of mind to them all.

Yours Sincerely

Please insert your name & address.