

HAMMOUND, Mohamad Youssef  
File No. A72 954 775  
Form I-589

#### ADDENDUM

When I was in Lebanon, I used to live in what is called or known as South Lebanon. I am Muslim but I am opposed to the occupation supported by Israel in cooperation with the South Lebanon Army (SLA) and the militia, also mostly Muslims but supported by the Syrians. Since I am opposed to both groups I was in the middle and found to be a suspect for both sides.

I have been arrested twice. The first time was in 1989 when I was kept in prison for 20 days. During those 20 days, I was interrogated and beaten up by the members of the SLA. As a direct consequence, I lost some hearing on my left ear. The reason why I was detained was because the SLA wanted me to act as a spy against the Syrian militia. I refused and they interpreted this refusal as a sign that I was a sympathizer of the Syrian militia. In fact, I am neither and basically detest as much the position of the Syrians as well as the SLA which is supported by Israel. I am for a free Lebanon.

Since I saw that the SLA was not going to believe me and since I was afraid they may kill me; I agreed to help them in the distribution of their propaganda material in school and in the area where I used to live.

My family has been singled out many times, for example: The Syrian militia stopped my brother in 1990 and also kept him in detention for about 10 days, the suspicion was that he was a sympathizer of the SLA, my brother was released but his properties were confiscated. As a result he also fled and went to Germany where he was granted political asylum. I also have a cousin, Asaad Darwich, who was granted asylum in Germany. The reason I did not go to Germany is because the situation and sentiment about foreigners in that country at this time makes me afraid; my cousin, Hussein Darwich, was murdered by Hizboulla in January 1987. He had lived in South Lebanon and he served with army security forces (SLA) from 1985 to late 1986 - then he fled to Beirut trying to get away from the SLA, there Hizboulla found him and where he had been living with his wife and children, (they had relocated there at the end of 1986) and a few months later the assassination took place.

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I was arrested a second time in January 1992 by the Syrian militia known as Hizboula. On this occasion I was attending the funeral of my cousin who had died in an accident which was found to be no such thing. Apparently somebody sabotaged his car and he died in the accident. This happened because the Syrian militia thought him to be a participant or member of the SLA.

After I was arrested the second time and questioned about my family, brother and my deceased cousin and his alleged activities, I was really scared and decided it was time to leave the country. I arranged to travel to Venezuela where I stayed for 40 days. I paid 200 dollars to a man in Venezuela whom I thought was a travel agent and he got me a visa to come the United States. In New York, I was told by the immigration inspector that it was a fraudulent visa. I told the inspector that I wanted to apply for asylum and I trust that my application is granted.

In general, the political atmosphere in my country is that of a civil war. The country is controlled by a coalition of Muslims and Christians. In theory, this should be good but it is not. The population is about 60 percent Muslims and 40 percent Christians. The problem is that some of the Muslims are supported by Israel and they go along with that position because Israel provides them with arms and equipments. These are the members of the SLA. The other facet of this equation is the Syrian militia which is armed and supported by Syria.

Thus the people of Lebanon are caught between the politican self interest of two other countries and we are pawns in an international war game. This situation has destroyed our government institutions, our lifestyles, our families and our country. We are surrounded by hat, anger and death.