

PUBLIC

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FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

(See MDE 24/16/97, 27 October 1997)

**Dr Ahmad Hamad
SYRIA / LEBANON**

According to information submitted to a UN Working Group by the Syrian government, Dr Ahmad Hamad, who "disappeared" after having been abducted in mid-June 1997 in Akkar, Lebanon, was released on 16 June 1998.

Dr Ahmad, now aged 38, was alleged to be a member of an outlawed political party in Lebanon. He was believed to have been arrested by members of the Syrian military intelligence and detained at their headquarters in Halba, North Lebanon. Amnesty International expressed concerns in October 1997 that Dr Ahmad might have been taken to Syria, possibly facing ill-treatment and torture at the hands of the Syrian military intelligence.

The case of Dr Ahmad was taken up by the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and submitted to the Government of Syria. The Syrian authorities in December 1998 informed the Working Group that Dr Hamad was released on 16 June 1998.

**No further action is required by network members.
Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.**