

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 24/011/2001

23 May 2001

Further information on UA 107/01 (MDE 24/005/2001, 30 April 2001) - Fear of safety/torture/possible "disappearance"

SYRIAHussain Daoud, aged 30

The Syrian authorities have reportedly acknowledged that Hussain Daoud is in custody, but have not said where he is held or why he was arrested. They apparently denied reports that he had died in custody, which some NGOs had circulated in April.

The authorities apparently gave out this information in the second week of May, in response to inquiries by concerned parties.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, Arabic or your own language:

- asking why Hussain Daoud was arrested and whether he has been charged or tried;
- asking where he is held, and urging that he is treated humanely and allowed access to medical care, his family and a lawyer of his choice;
- expressing concern at reports that he has been tortured and ill-treated, and calling for an independent and impartial investigation into these allegations.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency
President Bashar al-Assad
Presidential Palace
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: President al-Assad, Damascus, Syria
Telexes: 419160 prespl sy
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

His Excellency
Dr Muhammad Harba
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Merjeh Circle
Damascus
Syrian Arab Republic
Faxes: + 963 11 222 3428
Telexes: 411016 AFIRS SY

His Excellency
Nasser Qaddur
State Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Al-Rashid Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Fax: + 963 11 332 0686
Telex: 411922

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and to diplomatic representatives of Syria accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 July 2001.