

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 24/12/96

UA 178/96 Possible prisoner of conscience / medical concern / detention beyond
expiry of sentence

12 July 1996

SYRIAMustafa Tawfiq FALLAH, aged 59

Mustafa Tawfiq Fallah, aged 59, and believed to be detained in al-Mezze Prison, is reported to be in deteriorating health. He is said to be suffering from general atrophy and weight loss. His weight, which was 80kg before he began his prison sentence, is now reportedly between 40 and 50kg. He is feared to be suffering from diseases affecting his heart, kidneys, eyes and joints. He was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in 1970 and has already served more than 11 years beyond the expiry of his sentence. Amnesty International is calling for medical treatment to be immediately provided for him and urging his immediate release.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mustafa Tawfiq Fallah, a former officer in the Syrian army, was detained on 13 May 1970 in connection with the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party and brought before the Supreme State Security Court (SSSC), in August 1971, in a mass trial involving 350 civilian and military detainees. They were charged with "offences against the security of the state and public order". Mustafa Tawfiq Fallah was accused, along with his co-defendants, of plotting to overthrow the government which ruled between 1966 and 1970 in Syria, and of attempting to reinstate those removed from power in 1966. They were also accused of having received help from Iraq. The majority of the 350 detainees have been released over the past years. Most recently, two of the defendants Mahmud Muhammad al-Fayyad and Jalal al-Din Mirhij were released in 1994 and 1995 respectively.

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

- expressing concern over Mustafa Tawfiq Fallah's deteriorating health and urging that he be immediately allowed access to a doctor of his choice and to appropriate and adequate medical treatment;
- pointing out that it is illegal for prisoners to be held beyond the expiry of their sentence and calling for Mustafa Tawfiq Fallah's immediate release.

APPEALS TO:

President

His Excellency President Hafez al-Assad
President of the Republic
Presidential Palace
Abu Rummaneh
Al-Rashid Street
Damascus, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Telex: 419160 PRESPL SY

Telegrams: President al-Assad, Damascus, Syria

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

His Excellency Dr Muhammad Harba
Ministry of Interior
Marjeh Circle
Damascus, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Telex: 411018 AFIRS SY

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Damascus, Syria
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

His Excellency Hasin Hassun

Ministry of Justice

Al-Nasr Street

Damascus, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Damascus, Syria

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Health

His Excellency Dr Muhammad Iyad al-Shatti

Ministry of Health

Al-Majlis al-Niyabi

Damascus, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Telegrams: Health Minister, Damascus, Syria

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES 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 23 August 1996.