

## **Web Action WA 07/04; AI Index MDE 24/034/2004**

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*Date: 3 March 2004*

### **SYRIA: Stop torture of mother of nine** (Closing text)

On 19 February, Mu'eyna Muhammad Yusef Sa'adu was released without charge from the Military Intelligence Head Quarters in the capital, Damascus. She had been detained since 14 January following her arrest by Syrian military security officers as she re-entered the country, after 24 years as an exile in Jordan. She had apparently been granted a passport and given permission to return to Syria by its embassy in Amman, Jordan.

Mu'eyna Muhammad Yusef Sa'adu is reported to have been held incommunicado throughout most of her detention. She was also reportedly interrogated at Syrian military intelligence branches in Damascus, Dar'a, Sweida, and Lattakia. She was reportedly insulted, threatened and physically abused whilst being interrogated. Mu'eyna Muhammad Yusef Sa'adu suffers from ill-health including a heart condition which requires medication and a specific diet. Despite this, she was denied medical attention during her detention, though she is now reported to be in reasonably good health.

On her release, Mu'eyna Muhammad Yusef Sa'adu apparently stayed with relatives in Lattakia for one week. Following this, she attempted to re-join her family in Jordan, but was once again detained at the Syrian-Jordanian border and taken for interrogation at the security branch in Lattakia. She was held for one day before finally being allowed to return to Jordan around 29 February.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.