

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 24/015/2001

18 July 2001

Further information on UA 107/01 (MDE 24/005/2001, 26 April 2001) and follow-up (MDE 24/011/2001, 23 May 2001) - Fear for safety/ torture/ possible "disappearance"

SYRIA Hussain Daoud, aged 30

A representative of the German Embassy in Syria was reportedly allowed to visit Hussain Daoud in Sednaya Prison on 26 June.

Military intelligence officers, prison officials and a translator from military intelligence were present throughout, and it was not possible for the embassy representative to speak to Hussain Daoud in private. The diplomat said that Hussain Daoud appeared to be in a "good" state of health and did not show any obvious signs of torture. When a guard asked Hussain Daoud to lift his shirt, there were apparently no visible marks of torture on his body.

Torture is reportedly still systematic in Syria and routinely used by various security forces against political and non-political detainees.

According to the Syrian authorities, Hussain Daoud has not been charged as investigations are still underway.

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

- calling for Hussain Daoud to be released immediately unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offense;
- urging the authorities to ensure that Hussain Daoud is allowed immediate access to his family and a lawyer;
- asking for him to be treated humanely and not tortured or ill-treated in custody;
- expressing concern at reports that he was 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
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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
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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 28 August 2001.