

PUBLIC

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UA 175/06 Incommunicado Detention/ Fear of torture or ill-treatment/ Medical Concern

SYRIA **Sa'ad Noori Hussain al-Jiburi (m) aged 62**

Sa'ad Noori Hussain al-Jiburi, an Iraqi with Danish citizenship, was detained in Syria on his way back from Iraq to Denmark on 7 June. He was reportedly held at Aleppo airport in north-west Syria, but his current whereabouts are unknown. There are reports that a number of Iraqis were arrested at Aleppo airport at that time and an airport official has reportedly confirmed that Sa'ad Noori Hussain al-Jiburi was among those detained. Amnesty International believes that he is being held incommunicado, where he is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Prior to his detention, Sa'ad Noori Hussain al-Jiburi had been on holiday in Iraq visiting his family in Baghdad and Mosul. He left Mosul by bus on 7 June and had been planning to stay with a friend in Aleppo before flying to Denmark on 9 June via Damascus. He never arrived at his friend's house and neither his family nor friends have heard from him since he left Mosul. They are increasingly concerned for his health as he had a stroke last year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Torture is widespread in Syrian detention and investigation centres, particularly during pre-trial detention, and during periods of incommunicado detention. Over the years, Amnesty International has documented 38 types of torture and ill-treatment used against detainees in Syria. "Confessions" extracted under duress are systematically used as "evidence" in Syrian courts, and the defendants' claims that they have been tortured are almost never investigated. In 2004 at least nine people are reported to have died as a result of torture and ill-treatment suffered while in custody.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

To the Syrian authorities:

- calling on the authorities to release Sa'ad Noori Hussain al-Jiburi immediately and unconditionally unless he is charged with a recognizable criminal offence and given a fair and prompt trial;
- expressing concern at reports that he is held incommunicado, putting him at grave risk of torture or other ill-treatment;
- urging the authorities to ensure that Sa'ad Noori Hussain al-Jiburi is not tortured;
- reminding the authorities that Sa'ad Noori Hussain al-Jiburi must be given immediate access to a lawyer of his own choosing, his family and any medical attention he may require.

To the Danish authorities:

- urging the Danish authorities to use their influence with the Syrian authorities to ensure that Sa'ad Noori Hussain al-Jiburi is not tortured or ill-treated and is allowed visits from the Danish consulate or diplomatic staff; his family, access to a lawyer of his choosing and any medical assistance that he may require.

APPEALS TO: SYRIAN AUTHORITIES

President

His Excellency Bashar al-Assad

Presidential Palace
al-Rashid Street
Damascus
Syrian Arab Republic
Fax: + 963 11 332 3410
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Defence
His Excellency General Hassan Ali Turkmani
Ministry of Defence
Omayyad Square
Damascus
Syrian Arab Republic
Fax: +963 11 223 7842
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Foreign Affairs
His Excellency Walid Mu'allim
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
al-Rashid Street
Damascus
Syrian Arab Republic
Fax: + 963 11 332 7620
Salutation: Your Excellency

DANISH AUTHORITIES

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Per Stig Møller
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Asiatisk Plads 2
DK-1448 Copenhagen K
Denmark
Fax: +45 33 54 0533
Email: um@um.dk
Salutation: Dear Minister for Foreign Affairs

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 2 August 2006.