

Public

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To: Health professional coordinators
From: Health and Human Rights Team
Date: 3 August 2005

**Further information on
MEDICAL ACTION
Six imprisoned human rights defenders
Syria**

(update on medical action: **Mamun al-Humsi, Riad Seif, ‘Aref Dalilah, Muhammad Ra’dun, Nizar Ristnawi, and Mas’oud Hamid**, human rights defenders and prisoners of conscience in Syria, 25 July 2005, MDE 24/054/2005)

Update

Mamun al-Humsi has ended his hunger strike.

Mamun al-Humsi has now returned from Tishrin Military Prison to ‘Adra Prison but continues to be held incommunicado, without access to his family or lawyer. Amnesty International is extremely concerned about the continuing health problems of Mamun al-Humsi and Riad Seif. Mamun al-Humsi continues to suffer from a respiratory illness which needs to be investigated and appropriately treated. Riad Seif has heart disease.

Both men are now being held with criminal prisoners and according to reports are suffered threats of violence from their fellow inmates.

According to our information, Mamun al-Humsi’s lawyer has applied to sue the head of ‘Adra Prison for the poor conditions in which he is being imprisoned.

According to new information ‘Aref Dalilah is not on hunger strike and has not been on hunger strike in recent times. However, he is reportedly in very poor health and suffers from heart problems.

Recommended action

Please continue to campaign on behalf of these six men by writing to the authorities below:

- Introducing yourself as a health professional interested in human rights;

- Expressing concern for the health of Mamun al-Humsi, Riad Seif, Muhammad Ra'dun, Nizar Ristnawi, 'Aref Dalilah and Mas'oud Hamid;
- Expressing concern in particular at reports of the deteriorating health of Mamun al-Humsi and Riad Seif;
- Expressing concern that Mamun al-Humsi continues to be held in incommunicado detention and urging that he be given immediate access to visits from his family members and his lawyer;
- Calling for an end to the practice of incommunicado detention;
- Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of these six men who have been imprisoned solely for the peaceful expression of their beliefs;
- Calling for access to appropriate medical care for these men;
- Asking for assurances that they are not being subjected to torture and/or other ill-treatment;
- Inviting a response to your letter.

Addresses

His Excellency Bashar al-Assad
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His Excellency General Ghazi Kan'an
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 Minister of Health
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Please also write to diplomatic representatives of Syria accredited to your country. If you receive no reply within six weeks of sending your letter, please send a follow-up letter seeking a response. Please send copies of any letters you receive to the International Secretariat, attention of Health and Human Rights Team.