

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 50/94 (MDE 24/02/94, 14 February 1994) - Health concern
/ Prisoners of conscience

SYRIA Ahmad Suwaidani, aged about 65 (photo, taken 1968)

Muhammad 'Id 'Ashawi, Hadithe Murade, Dafi Jam'ani, 'Abd al-Hamid Miqdad, 'Adel
Na'issa, Fawzi Rida and Mustafa Rustum

Amnesty International has learned that Ahmad Suwaidani, a prisoner of conscience who has spent nearly 25 years in detention, was released from Teshmin Hospital in Damascus on 21 February 1994. As yet, Amnesty International has no information as to the state of his health. He is now at home with his family.

Two of the other long-term prisoners of conscience named above were released at the same time. They are Hadithe Murade and Mustafa Rustum.

The other five named above are still in detention and Amnesty International remains concerned about their health. They are all said to be in poor health, particularly Muhammad 'Id 'Ashawi, who is reported to be suffering from acute anaemia, rheumatism and a stomach ulcer.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams, telexes and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- welcoming the release of Ahmad Suwaidani, Hadithe Murade and Mustafa Rustum;
- expressing concern about the health of the five other men named above, and urging that they receive all necessary medical treatment;
- calling for their immediate and unconditional release as prisoners of conscience.

APPEALS TO

His Excellency
President Hafez al-Assad
Presidential Palace
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: President Al-Assad, Damascus, Syria
Telexes: 419160 munjed sy
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 6 April 1994.