

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 45/92 (MDE 24/04/92, 11 February 1992) - Incommunicado Detention / Fear of Torture

SYRIA: 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyir
Bahjat Sha'bu
Khadija Dib (released)
and five others

Amnesty International has received the names of five more people reported to be currently detained incommunicado in connection the prohibited Hizb al-'Amal al-Shuyu'i, Party for Communist Action (PCA). They were reportedly arrested in February 1992 by members of al-Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya, Military Intelligence, shortly after the arrest of 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyir, Bahjat Sha'bu and Khadija Dib. The organization has also learned that Khadija Dib was released after ten days detention.

The five detainees are: 'Abdallah Fadil, a 26-year-old graduate in business studies from Jabla; Muhammad Ghanim, a 34-year-old doctor from Lataqiyya; Mahmud Khadhur, 30 years old, also from Lataqiyya; Nadim Mazlum, from Salmiya near Homs; and Munzir Jum'a, a 32-year-old civil engineer from Homs. All five are said to be held incommunicado in Fara' al-Tahqiq al-'Askari, Military Interrogation Branch, in Damascus. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyir and Bahjat Sha'bu are also being held there.

Amnesty International fears that all seven detainees are at risk of being tortured. In addition, the organization believes that they may be held solely for the non-violent expression of their political beliefs and as such would be prisoners of conscience.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at reports that the seven detainees named above are being held and incommunicado and that Amnesty International fears they may be tortured;

- seeking assurances that they are being treated humanely and are not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- requesting that all detainees be given prompt access to their families and lawyers, and that all necessary medical care be provided.
- asking for their immediate release unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and given a prompt and fair trial.

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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

His Excellency Muhammad Harba
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Damascus, Syria
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Khaled al-Ansari
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Nasr Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Damascus, Syria
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Faruq al-Shar'a
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Al-Rashid Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister, Damascus, Syria
Telexes: 411922
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Dr. Iyad al-Shatti
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
al-Majlis al-Niyabi Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: Health Minister, Damascus, Syria

Telexes: health 412655 sy
Salutation:tion: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Dr. M. Cherif Bakle
Ordre des Mediciens Syriens
Place de l'Etoile
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

and to diplomatic representatives of Syria in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 April 1992.