

Public

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To: Health professionals

From: Medical office / Middle East Program

Date: 26 February 2002

MEDICAL ACTION

Mustafa Dib Khalil (also known as Abu Ta'an)

Syria

Key words Ill-health / lack of medical care / political prisoner

Amnesty International is concerned at continued reports of ill-health of **Mustafa Dib Khalil** (also known as **Abu Ta'an**) imprisoned in Sednaya prison, Syria. He reportedly has a spinal problem and is suffering from hypertension and loss of sight.

Mustafa Dib Khalil also has psychological problems due to prolonged detention and being held incommunicado for many years. In addition, the failure of the Syrian authorities to release him along with thousands of political prisoners released as a result of Presidential amnesties over the last ten years, has impacted severely on his mental health.

Mustafa Dib Khalil, a Palestinian born in 1923, was arrested on 7 November 1983. He was apprehended by Syrian intelligence officers near Tripoli in northern Lebanon. He was taken from Lebanon and imprisoned in Syria. He reportedly was arrested for belonging to the Fatah Movement - supporting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat - and for being a coordinator of Palestinian guerrilla fighters in Lebanon. Following his arrest he was held for eight years in solitary confinement and then remained in incommunicado detention for about 14 years. He is apparently being held without charge or trial.

Amnesty International is calling for the immediate investigation, diagnosis and treatment of his medical problems and for his release.

Recommended actions & addresses

Please write letters in English, Arabic or your own language to the authorities below, using professionally-headed paper if you use this in your profession:

expressing concern about continued reports of ill-health of Mustafa Dib Khalil (also known as Abu Ta'an), held in Sednaya Prison;
urging the authorities to provide him with prompt access to adequate medical care in accordance with the *Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners*;
urging the authorities to release Mustafa Dib Khalil who reportedly has been imprisoned since 1983 without charge or trial.

Addresses

His Excellency

President Bashar al-Assad

Presidential Palace

Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency

Nabil al-Khatib

Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice

Al-Nasr Street

Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Fax: + 963 11 224 6250

Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency

Dr Muhammad Harba

Minister of the Interior

Ministry of the Interior

Merjeh Circle

Damascus

Syrian Arab Republic

Faxes: + 963 11 222 3428

Salutation: Your Excellency

Please send copies of your letters to diplomatic representatives of Syria accredited to your country.

If you receive no reply from the government or other recipients within two months of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow up letter seeking a response, referring to your previous letter(s). Please check with the medical team if you are sending appeals after 30 April 2002, and send copies of any replies you do receive to the International Secretariat (att: medical team).

Monitoring of action

If you have access to e-mail you can help our attempt to monitor letter-writing actions. If you write one, two, three or more letters, please send us an e-mail and let us know. Please write in the subject line of your e-mail the index number of the action and the number of letters you write
e.g. MDE 24/005/2002 - (if you write 2 letters)

Please send your message to medical@amnesty.org Thank you.