27 October 1997

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

Dr Ahmad Hamad
SYRIA / LEBANON

Keywords

Theme: 'disappearance'

Affiliation: doctor

Summary

Amnesty International remains concerned about the safety of Dr Ahmad Hamad, a Lebanese doctor, who was reportedly abducted on 18 or 19 June 1997 in Akkar, Lebanon. AI is concerned that he may be held by Syrian forces and is urging that his whereabouts be disclosed, his security be guaranteed and that he be freed unless he is to be charged with a recognisable crime.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses below:

ocalling for the disclosure of the whereabouts of Ahmad Hamad as a matter of urgency;

oseeking assurances that he is being treated humanely, and urging that he be allowed immediate and continuing access to his family and a lawyer of his choice

oseeking information about his state of health; urging that he be given access to a doctor and any medical care that may be necessary

o calling for his immediate and unconditional release or for him to be promptly charged with a recognized criminal offence and given a fair trial in accordance with international standards

Addresses

LEBANON:
President
His Excellency President Elias al-Hrawi
Office of President
Ba'abda Palace
Ba'abda, Beirut
Republic of Lebanon
Telegrams: President al-Hrawi, Beirut, Lebanon
Fax: +961 1 425 393
Salutation: Your Excellency

SYRIA
Faxes to the following Syrian authorities can be sent via the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, fax: +963 11 3327 620

His Excellency President Hafez al-Assad
Presidential Palace, Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: President, Damascus, Syria
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Vice President
Abu Rummaneh, Al-Rashid Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: Vice President, Damascus, Syria
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Lt. General Mustafa Tlas
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
Ommayyad Square
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: General Tlas, Damascus, Syria
Salutation: Your Excellency

Copies of letters should be sent to:

Mr 'Adnan 'Addoum
Prosecutor General
Palais de Justice, Beirut
Republic of Lebanon

and to diplomatic representatives of Syria and Lebanon accredited to your country.

Additional action: Please inform your professional association of Dr Hamad's plight and urge them to approach the Lebanese and Syrian authorities to appeal on his behalf.

27 October 1997

'DISAPPEARANCE'

Dr Ahmad Hamad
SYRIA / LEBANON

Ahmad Hamad, aged 37, a married Lebanese medical doctor and a member of the Lebanese Medical Association, remains unaccounted for, more than four months after his reported abduction in June 1997. There remains serious concern for his safety.

Dr Hamad was abducted on 18 or 19 June 1997 in Akkar, North Lebanon. It is believed that he was arrested by members of the Syrian military intelligence and initially held incommunicado at their headquarters in Halba, North Lebanon. His arrest is thought to relate to his alleged membership of an outlawed political party in Lebanon, the pro-Iraqi Ba'ath Party.

Amnesty International is concerned that he may have been taken to Syria where he could face ill-treatment and torture. Amnesty International is urging the Syrian authorities to account for his whereabouts and to ensure his safe return to his family unless he is to be charged and tried for a recognisable crime, in which case his whereabouts should be made public and he should be given access to his family, a lawyer and a doctor.

Background

Amnesty International has previously received reports that detainees held at the detention facilities of the Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon have been subjected to ill-treatment, including beating and kicking. They are often then transferred to Syria for interrogation. Amnesty International has also received reports of the torture of detainees from Lebanese and Arab prisoners transferred to Syria.