

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 24/026/2005

17 May 2005

Further Information on UA 22/05 (MDE 24/005/2005, 26 January 2005) and follow-up (MDE 24/019/2005, 18 April 2005) - Fear of torture

SYRIA 'Abd al-Rahman al-Musa (m) aged 41, grocery store manager

'Abd al-Rahman al-Musa was allowed to see his family once during April, for the first time in several weeks. Amnesty International does not have information about where he is held and is concerned that he may be in danger of torture or other ill-treatment. There are also concerns that he has not had access to a lawyer, is being held without charge, and has not been brought before a court.

In April 2005, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Musa was reportedly moved to an alternative place of detention from the Political Security Detention Centre in Hama, western Syria, where he was held following his forcible return from the USA to Syria in January 2005. Prior to being moved from Hama, he had received visits from his family but these ended when he was transferred.

'Abd al-Rahman al-Musa was affiliated with the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood (MB). He left Syria in 1982 following clashes in Hama between the security services and the MB, in which thousands were killed, reportedly including members of his family. He lived in the USA from around 1991, where he married and had two children. His asylum application was rejected in January 2005, and he was forcibly returned to Syria via the Netherlands. Amnesty International Netherlands approached the Dutch immigration authorities at the time, to raise concerns about him, but the authorities did not act on the information.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Arabic, French or your own language or your own language:

- welcoming the news that 'Abd al-Rahman al-Musa has been reportedly allowed visits from his family;
- seeking assurances that he is not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- calling for his release unless he is to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence and given a fair and prompt trial;
- urging the authorities to ensure that 'Abd al-Rahman al-Musa is allowed access to a lawyer of his choice, and any medical care he may require.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency President Bashar al-Assad
President of the Republic
Presidential Palace

Abu Rummaneh, Al-Rashid Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Fax: + 963 11 332 3410

Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency General Ghazi Kan'an
Minister of Interior, Ministry of Interior
Merjeh Circle

Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Fax + 963 11 222 3428

Email: mi@net.sy

admin@civilaffair-moi.gov.sy (please try to use both addresses)

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES 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 27 June 2005.