

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 24/099/2005

09 November 2005

Further Information on UA 139/05 (MDE 24/032/2005, 25 May 2005) and follow-ups (MDE 24/038/2005, 3 June 2005; MDE 24/045/2005, 1 July 2005; MDE 24/093/2005, 1 November 2005) - Prisoner of conscience / incommunicado detention / fear of torture and ill-treatment / unfair trial

SYRIA 'Ali al-'Abdullah (m), aged 55, journalist and member of Jamal al-Atassi Forum

Prisoner of conscience 'Ali al-'Abdullah was released on 2 November.

He was one of 190 political prisoners released under a presidential amnesty to mark the Muslim 'Eid holiday.

'Ali al-'Abdullah had been arrested on the night of 15 May 2005. A week before his arrest, he had read a statement on behalf of the exiled leader of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) at the now-banned Jamal al-Atassi Forum political discussion group. Among other things, the statement called for political reforms and respect for the rights of individuals in Syria. 'Ali al-'Abdullah was reportedly held in solitary confinement in 'Adra prison, near the capital, Damascus from the time of his arrest. Amnesty International considers him to have been a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful expression of his opinions.

'Ali al-'Abdullah was brought before the Supreme State Security Court (SSSC) on 30 October on charges including "dissemination of false information" under Article 286 of the Penal Code.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.