

PUBLIC

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**Further information on UA 237/02 (MDE 28/016/2002, 25 July 2002) - Possible "disappearance"/secret detention/fear of torture or ill-treatment**

**ALGERIASamir Aissani (m), aged 30**

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Samir Aissani was released without charge on 26 July, the day after the original Urgent Action was issued. He appears to have been intimidated and is reportedly not speaking to anybody about what happened to him while he was in secret detention.

Amnesty International fears that the arrest of Samir Aissani may have been an attempt by the authorities to prevent him from relaying information about Algeria's human rights situation to observers outside the country. A few days before his arrest, Samir Aissani had phoned an Algerian human rights lawyer living outside Algeria, announcing that he intended to travel to France on 18 July, and adding that he had valid travel documents and a visa. He was arrested on the day he intended to travel.

Samir Aissani's passport and identity card have been confiscated, and he will therefore not be able to travel abroad. Passports are frequently withdrawn or denied by the Algerian authorities as an arbitrary measure to curb freedom of movement.

**No further action by the Urgent Action network is required at this point. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.**