## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ADVISORY

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## Syria torture allegations spokespeople available for interview

A report has emerged today alleging that 11,000 detainees were tortured and killed while in custody in Syria. The allegations are based on thousands of photographs smuggled out of the country.

Amnesty International is not able to authenticate the images but the organization has carried out extensive research into torture in detention by the Syrian regime in the past and the latest claims are consistent with its previous findings.

Amnesty International has spokespeople available for interview in English and Arabic who can discuss what the Geneva II peace conference should aim to achieve in order to address the issues of torture and detention in Syria.

Possible talking points:

- \* Torture in detention in Syria
- \*Access for Commission of Inquiry and other human rights monitors
- \*Clarifying the fate of those subjected to enforced disappearances
- \* Releasing peaceful activists

In a report published in March 2012 <u>'I wanted to die': Syria's torture survivors</u> <u>speak out</u> Amnesty International identified 31 methods of torture or other illtreatment by Syrian security forces, army and pro-government groups against detainees.

For further information, to arrange an interview please contact: Sara Hashash MENA Press Officer in London +44 (0)207 413 5511 sara.hashash@amnesty.org