

# URGENT ACTION

## SYRIAN ACTIVIST ARRESTED, AT RISK OF TORTURE

**Syrian pro-reform activist Amal Jamil Nasr was arrested on 2 March by men believed to be Military Intelligence agents. She has been detained incommunicado since then and is in danger of torture and other ill-treatment.**

According to a contact in Syria, **Amal Jamil Nasr** was stopped by plain-clothes security force personnel while driving her car in the capital, Damascus, and taken to a Military Intelligence branch in the city. She is believed to be still held in this Military Intelligence branch, and has not been allowed visits from her family or lawyer. She was last seen at the Military Intelligence branch by a detainee who has since been released.

Amal Jamil Nasr is the head of a coalition of political groups, the Women's National Coordination Office for Democratic Change. She has also attended many workshops outside Syria on non-violent strategies for conflict prevention and peace-building. According to the same contact, her husband Adnan al-Dibs was arrested the same day at their home, by plain-clothes security force personnel who broke down the door and took him to the same Military Intelligence branch. He and his wife were briefly reunited, and he was released without charge after five days.

Amal Jamil Nasr is believed to have been arrested on account of her activism and her husband's membership of the Syrian Communist Workers Party. Should this be the case, Amnesty International would consider her to be a prisoner of conscience. Her husband was previously arrested for his membership of both the Syrian Communist Workers Party and the National Coordination Body for Democratic Change, a coalition of political groups and activists that advocates a peaceful transition of power.

### Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to release Amal Jamil Nasr immediately and unconditionally if she is detained for the peaceful exercise of her right to freedom of expression and her human rights work;
- Urging the authorities to confirm her whereabouts without delay, and grant her immediate access to her family, lawyer and any medical attention she may require;
- Urging them to ensure that Amal Jamil Nasr is protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 APRIL 2014 TO:

#### President

Bashar al-Assad

Fax: +963 11 332 3410 (keep trying)

(If voice answers, say "Fax". Fax is the only reliable communication method; please do not send letters)

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### Minister of Interior

Major General Mohamad Ibrahim al-Shaar

Fax: +963 11 311 0554

(If voice answers, say "Fax". Fax is the only reliable communication method; please do not send letters)

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### Permanent Representative to the UN

Bashar Ja'afari

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

820 Second Avenue, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10017

Fax: +1 212 983 4439

E-mail: [exexec.syria@gmail.com](mailto:exexec.syria@gmail.com)

**Salutation: Your Excellence**

Where appropriate, please also send copies to the Syrian and Russian diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further information on Amal Jamil Nasr's husband's last arrest is available here: *Syria: Men subjected to enforced disappearance* (Index: MDE 24/040/2013, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE24/040/2013/en>). He was arrested in July 2013 and released in October of the same year and subjected to enforced disappearance during his detention. His current legal status is unconfirmed.

For an insight into the widespread torture and other ill-treatment in Syria's detention centres, see *I wanted to die: Syria's torture survivors speak out* (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE24/016/2012/en>). Thousands are reported to have died in the custody of the Syrian security forces since the unrest began. Amnesty International documented this practice in the report *Deadly detention: Deaths in custody amid popular protest in Syria* (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE24/035/2011/en>).

While the majority of the abuses have been committed by government forces, serious human rights abuses, including war crimes, have been committed by armed opposition groups, including some affiliated to al-Qa'ida and some affiliated to the Free Syria Army, and these have escalated in recent months. Armed opposition groups have increasingly resorted to summary killings of members of the various government security forces, pro-government militias, suspected informers or collaborators, members of rival armed opposition groups and members of minority communities perceived by members of armed opposition groups as loyal to President Bashar al-Assad such as Shi'a or Alawite Muslims. Armed opposition groups have also carried out indiscriminate attacks leading to civilian casualties, used children in hostilities, tortured or otherwise ill-treated captives, issued sectarian threats and carried out attacks against minority communities perceived as pro-government, and abducted and held hostages. See *Syria: Summary killings and other abuses by armed opposition groups*, issued on 14 March 2013 (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE24/008/2013/en>) and *Syria: Rule of fear: ISIS abuses in detention in Northern Syria*, issued on 19 December 2013 (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE24/063/2013/en>).

Name: Amal Jamil Nasr

Gender m/f: f

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