

EXTERNAL (FOR GENERAL DISTRIBUTION) AI INDEX: MDE 24/01/91
DISTR: UA/SC

1 FEBRUARY 1991

FURTHER INFORMATION ON 193/90 (MDE 24/07/90, 16 MAY 1990) - DEATH
IN CUSTODY/TORTURE

SYRIA: SAMIR HADDAD, CIVIL ENGINEER, AGED 33
YOUSSEF GHAITH, STUDENT OF ENGINEERING, AGED 27

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS RECEIVED FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT SAMIR
HADDAD AND YOUSSEF GHAITH WHO, TOGETHER WITH MUNIR FRANSIS, WERE
THE SUBJECT OF UA 193/90, MDE 24/07/90, 16 MAY 1990. BOTH OF THEM
ARE CURRENTLY REPORTED TO BE HELD IN 'ADRA CIVIL PRISON, NEAR
DAMASCUS.

SAMIR HADDAD WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SEVERELY TORTURED
AFTER BEING ARRESTED ON 5 APRIL 1990. THE FOLLOWING DAY HE WAS
TAKEN TO AL-NABK CLINIC (IN THE YABRUD REGION) AND WAS LATER
ADMITTED TO MUWASSAT HOSPITAL IN DAMASCUS ON 8 APRIL. SAMIR
HADDAD, WHO IS KNOWN TO HAVE DELICATE HEALTH AND CHRONIC TROUBLE
WITH HIS KIDNEYS, SUFFERED KIDNEY FAILURE AND RESPIRATORY ARREST ON
11 APRIL AND WAS TAKEN IN TO INTENSIVE CARE FOR RESUSCITATION.

SAMIR HADDAD CAME OUT OF A COMA ON 13 APRIL AND WAS
SUBSEQUENTLY SEEN BY A PSYCHIATRIST FOR DEEP DEPRESSION. HE IS
REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN OPERATED ON AT THE BEGINNING OF JULY 1990,
AND GIVEN SKIN GRAFTS ON HIS FEET OVER SEVERE INJURIES (LESIONS)
CAUSED BY TORTURE. TOWARDS THE END OF JULY HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO
'ADRA CIVIL PRISON, WHERE HE IS ALLOWED ONE FAMILY VISIT FOR ONE
HOUR ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH. THE LAST SUCH VISIT TOOK
PLACE ON 7 JANUARY 1991.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS ALSO RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THE
DOCTOR MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF UA 193/90, 16 MAY 1990, HAS BEEN
RELEASED . THE DOCTOR AT THE HOSPITAL WHERE MUNIR FRANSIS
APPARENTLY DIED WAS ARRESTED FOR REFUSING TO CERTIFY THAT MUNIR
FRANSIS HAD DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: AIRMAIL LETTERS:

- REITERATING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S REQUEST THAT AN IMPARTIAL
INVESTIGATION BE CONDUCTED INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE
REPORTED DEATH IN CUSTODY IN MID-APRIL 1990 OF MUNIR FRANSIS AND
THE SEVERE TORTURE OF SAMIR HADDAD, THAT ITS FINDINGS BE MADE
PUBLIC, AND THAT ANYONE FOUND RESPONSIBLE BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE:
- REQUESTING DETAILS REGARDING THE LEGAL BASIS FOR THE CONTINUED
DETENTION OF SAMIR HADDAD AND YOUSSEF GHAITH, AND URGING THAT THEY
BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UNLESS THEY ARE TO BE CHARGED WITH A
RECOGNIZABLY CRIMINAL OFFENCE AND BROUGHT TO TRIAL, AND THAT THEY
BE TREATED HUMANELY PENDING THEIR RELEASE.

APPEALS TO:

HIS EXCELLENCY KHALED AL-ANSARI
MINISTER OF JUSTICE
NASR STREET
DAMASCUS
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

HIS EXCELLENCY MUHAMMAD HARBA
MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR
MERJEH CIRCLE
DAMASCUS
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

DR. IYAD AL-SHATTI
MINISTER OF HEALTH
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
AL-MAJLIS AL-NIYABI STREET
DAMASCUS
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

COPIES TO:

DR. M. CHERIF BAKLE
ORDRE DES MEDICINS SYRIENS
PLACE DE L'ETOILE
DAMASCUS
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

AND TO DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF SYRIA IN YOUR COUNTRY.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. CHECK WITH THE INTERNATIONAL
SECRETARIAT, OR YOUR SECTION OFFICE, IF SENDING APPEALS AFTER 15
MARCH 1991.