

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 24/003/2002

30 January 2002

Further information on UA 205/01 (MDE 24/026/2001, 10 August 2001) and follow-up (MDE 24/002/2002, 15 January 2002) - Prisoner of conscience/fear of torture/legal concern

SYRIA Mamun al-Humsi (m), aged 45, member of parliament
 Riad Sairafi (m), 30
 Ahmad Sairafi (m), 23
 Jamal al-Masri (m), 40

Riad Sairafi, Ahmad Sairafi and Jamal al-Masri were released on bail on 19 January. They had been held in 'Adra Prison since 26 December on charges of "disorderly behaviour", after they applauded Mamun al-Humsi during a hearing of his trial. Their case has been referred to a Military Court in Damascus.

Mamun al-Humsi has pleaded innocent, but is reportedly boycotting any further hearings of his trial by the Criminal Court in Damascus. He has lodged a complaint against the court, calling it "unfair and biased", and demanding that his case be transferred to another court.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- asking the authorities to drop the charges against Riad Sairafi, Ahmad Sairafi and Jamal al-Masri and close their case, as they are imprisoned and facing trial solely for the peaceful expression of their beliefs;
- urging the authorities to release Mamun al-Humsi immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience;
- asking for assurances that he is being well treated in custody and not tortured or otherwise ill-treated.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency
President Bashar al-Assad
Presidential Palace
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: President al-Assad, Damascus, Syria
Telexes: 419160 prespl sy
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency
Nabil al-Khatib
Ministry of Justice
Al-Nasr Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Damascus, Syria
Fax: + 963 11 224 6250
e-mail: moj@net.sy
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency
Maj-Gen Ali Hammud
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Merjeh Circle
Damascus

2

Syrian Arab Republic

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Damascus, Syria

Faxes: + 963 11 222 3428

Telexes: 411016 AFIRS SY

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Syria accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 March 2002.