

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Incommunicado Detention \ Fear of Torture

28 April 1994

SYRIA Fadi Munir Jadid - University student, aged 20
 Usama Munir Jadid - University student, aged 25
 Nidal Mahmud Jadid - University student, aged 31 Salah
Mahmud Jadid - University Lecturer, aged 30 Ghassan Fuad Jadid -
Univesity student, aged 24 Saddiq Riad Jadid - Student, aged 17

 Yassir Riad Jadid - Student, aged 20
 'Ammar 'Abbud - Dentist, aged 24
 'Ali 'Issa al-Hakim - Businessman, aged 31
 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Hallaq - Engineer, aged 37
 Na'im Khuri - Retired army officer

The 11 people named above have been held in incommunicado detention at an unknown location in Syria for almost nine months. Amnesty International fears that they may have been subjected to torture, and that as long as they remain incommunicado, remain at risk of such treatment.

All were arrested in August 1993 shortly after the funeral of Salah Jadid, a former prisoner of conscience who died in custody on 19 August, after almost 23 years of detention without charge or trial. The 11 are said to be held also without charge or trial, possibly for their association with the deceased.

If this is the reason for their detention, Amnesty International would consider them prisoners of conscience.

Nine of the detainees are immediate relatives of the late Salah Jadid. Fadi and Usama Jadid are the sons of his brother, Munir. They were reportedly arrested on 23 August by the security forces during a night-time raid on their home in Duwir Ba'bada village, and were taken away in their bedclothes and bare feet. The other seven, Nidal, Salah, Ghassan, Saddiq, and Yassir Jadid and 'Ammar 'Abbud and 'Ali al-Hakim are the sons of his brothers and sister and were arrested on 27, 28 and 29 August.

'Abd al-Razzaq al-Hallaq is said to be a close friend of one of Salah Jadid's sons. Na'im Khuri is said to have been a personal friend of the deceased. Both were reportedly arrested on 29 August.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Lengthy incommunicado detention of political suspects is a regular practice in Syria where it has been a contributory factor in facilitating the torture and death under torture of detainees. Such a practice is contrary to international human rights standards and to Syria's own laws. Article 72(2) of the Syrian Code of Criminal Procedures guarantees detained suspects the right to contact a lawyer at any time and in private.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Arabic or in your own language:

- expressing concern that the 11 detainees named above are being held in incommunicado detention and seeking information as to their whereabouts;
- seeking assurances that they are being treated humanely in accordance with international standards;
- urging that the detainees be given immediate access to family, lawyers and any medical attention they may need;

- expressing concern that all 11 may be prisoners of conscience and urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- asking for details of any charges and evidence against them and the dates and places of any pending trial procedures;
- calling on the authorities to stop the practice of holding political suspects incommunicado for long periods, contrary to both international standards and Syrian legislation.

APPEALS TO:

1. His Excellency
 President Hafez al-Assad
 Presidential Palace
 Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: President al-Assad, Damascus, Syria
Telexes 419160 munjed sy
Salutation: Your Excellency

2. His Excellency
 Dr Muhammad Harba
 Minister of Interior
 Ministry of Interior
 Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Damascus, Syria
Telexes: 411018 AFIRS SY
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) His Excellency
 'Abdallah Talaba
 Minister of Justice
 Ministry of Justice
 Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Damascus, Syria
Telexes: 411018 AFIRS
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 9 June 1994.