

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 167/94 (MDE 24/06/94, 28 April 1994) -
Incommunicado Detention \ Fear of Torture

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

On 20 June, the London Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic wrote to Amnesty International in reply to appeals from the UA Network on behalf of the 11 people named above:

"I refer to several letters received recently from a number of activists of your organisation concerning information about the detention of some of the Late Salah Jadid family members and friends.

I would like to inform you that no one was arrested or detained because of being a relative or friend of the Late Salah Jadid.

Furthermore, the Syrian Arab Republic laws and regulations do not give authority to anyone to arrest or detain any citizen because of his or her blood relation, colour, opinion, religion, or language.

It would be appreciated if you would kindly circulate this information to all the members of your organisation."

While welcoming the Embassy's communication, Amnesty International remains concerned that the 11 detainees are still being held in incommunicado detention at an unknown location, and have been held in this way for almost 11 months now. This was the concern at the centre of UA participants' appeals, and is one which the Embassy's letter fails to clarify. Amnesty International continues to fear that the detainees may have been subjected to torture, and that as long as they are held incommunicado, remain at risk of such treatment.

The Embassy's letter also fails to give any information as to the reasons for their detention and their legal status, or provide assurances that they are being allowed access to family, lawyers and medical attention, if necessary.

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 and airmail letters either

in Arabic or in your own language:

- welcoming the authorities' reply to Amnesty International which seeks to give assurances about detention practices in Syria, but expressing concern that the 11 detainees named above are still held in incommunicado detention, in violation of international human rights standards and Syria's own laws;
- urging that the detainees be given immediate access to family, lawyers and any medical attention they may need;
- seeking information as to the whereabouts of the detainees;
- seeking assurances that they are being treated humanely in accordance with international standards;
- 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, and given a fair and prompt trial;
- asking for details of any charges and evidence against them and the dates and places of any pending trial procedures.

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 4 August 1994.