

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 24/07/97

UA 126/97 Fear of torture / Medical concern / Possible
prisoner of conscience

30 April 1997

SYRIANouh Rasul Mustafa, Syrian Kurd, born 1961

Nouh Rasul Mustafa, arrested at his home in Qamishli on 14 April 1997, is being held in an unknown location. He is believed to have been arrested by members of Syrian military intelligence, who, prior to his arrest, are reported to have repeatedly gone to his home asking for his brother Nasreddin Mustafa.

Amnesty International is concerned that Nouh Mustafa may be a prisoner of conscience, detained as a hostage for his brother, and fears that he may be subjected to torture in incommunicado detention. Nouh Mustafa is disabled and may require medical attention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nasreddin Mustafa was reportedly detained twice in *Far'a Falastin*, a military detention centre in Syria in 1993 and 1994 without charge or trial. He was reportedly tortured before being released on condition that he would become an informer on the activities of Syrian Kurds for the intelligence authorities. He fled the country and is currently seeking asylum abroad.

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

- requesting information on the whereabouts of Nouh Rasul Mustafa, and seeking assurances that he is being treated humanely in accordance with international standards for the treatment of detainees;
- calling for him to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence or released immediately;
- urging that the authorities comply with their obligations under international law and allow Nouh Rasul Mustafa access to his family and lawyer;
- request information on Nouh Rasul Mustafa's medical condition and assurance that he will receive medical care if needed.

APPEALS TO:

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

His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Harba
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
Merjeh Circle
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Fax: +963 11 222 3428
Telegram: Interior Minister, Damascus, Syria
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency
Hussein Hassun

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Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Al-Nasr Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Damascus, Syria
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

His Excellency Nasser Qaddur
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Al-Rashid Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Fax: +963 11 224 5747

and 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 20 June 1997.