

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: MDE 24/024/2004**

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**Further Information on UA 261/03 (MDE 24/032/2003, 04 September 2003) Fear of torture or ill-treatment/possible prisoner of conscience/legal concern**

**SYRIA Khalil Sulayman (m), aged 44, agricultural engineer and Kurdish activist - released**

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Kurdish activist Khalil Sulayman was released around 20 September 2003. He had been detained in incommunicado detention in the capital Damascus.

His arrest and detention appears to form part of an ongoing pattern of repressive measures by the Syrian authorities against Syrian Kurdish activists. He was reportedly arrested in connection to his organization of a party for successful school students at which people sang Kurdish songs.

Khalil Sulayman was charged with "inciting racial hatred" and reportedly tried before the Military Court from 8 December 2003, whilst released on bail. On 18 January 2004 the Court dropped the charges against him.

**Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the UA Network.**