

PUBLIC

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**Further information on UA 248/01 (MDE 24/036/2001, 28 September) -
Torture/Medical concern/Prisoner of conscience**

SYRIAWajih Ghanim (m), 52

Wajih Ghanim was released on 18 November under an amnesty issued by President Bashar al-Assad.

He was one of nine prisoners of conscience released under the amnesty, which reportedly also covers detained members of the unauthorized Muslim Brotherhood Organization.

Eight of those released were leading members of the Party for Communist Action (PCA) serving up to 15 years' imprisonment for their alleged involvement in anti-government activities. The ninth, 'Adil Isma'il, is a member of the Democratic Ba'th party, a rival wing to the ruling Ba'th party.

One PCA prisoner of conscience, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyir, who is serving a 22-year sentence passed by the Supreme State Security Court after an unfair trial, is apparently still in detention.

No further action is needed by the Urgent Action Network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.