

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 24/091/2005

11 October 2005

Further Information on UA 246/05 (MDE 24/087/2005, 21 September 2005) - Incommunicado detention/fear of torture

SYRIA Mustafa Omar Abdi Malik (m), aged 19, medical student, Somali national

Mustafa Omar Abdi Malik's mother was reportedly allowed to visit him on 28 September, but no one has been allowed to see him since, including his lawyer. Apart from this one visit he has been held incommunicado since 6 September. He is held at the Political Security Branch in al-Fayha'a in the capital, Damascus.

Three prison officials were present throughout the meeting and she was able to give her son some money and clothing. The family had apparently arranged the meeting with an official from the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Somali embassy in Damascus. The official reportedly told Mustafa Omar Abdi Malik's mother that her son had done nothing wrong but was being kept in custody because of "someone he knows," apparently from the school he attended before he went to university. Although she was told that he would be released "soon" he remains detained without charge.

Mustafa Omar Abdi Malik was arrested at his home in the Damascus suburb of Harasta Taht, on 6 September. His family are not aware of his having any political connections or affiliations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic, English, French or your own language:

- calling on the authorities to release Mustafa Omar Abdi Malik immediately, since he is not charged with any offence;
- reminding the authorities that Mustafa Omar Abdi Malik is entitled to receive visits from a lawyer of his choice and that he should be allowed regular visits from his family and any medical treatment he may require;
- urging them to ensure that Mustafa Omar Abdi Malik is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated while he is detained.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency President Bashar al-Assad
President of the Republic
Presidential Palace
Abu Rummaneh, Al-Rashid Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Fax: + 963 11 332 3410
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency General Ghazi Kan'an
Minister of Interior, Ministry of Interior
Merjeh Circle
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Fax + 963 11 222 3428
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Muhammad al-Ghafari

Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice
Al-Nasr Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Fax: + 963 11 222 3428
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES 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 22 November 2005.