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# amnesty international

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## Appeal Case Update – Syria/Germany/USA “Disappearance” of Muhammad Haydar Zammar (Update of *Syrian-born German held three years without charge in rat-infested Syrian “tomb”, 08/10/2004, AI INDEX: MDE 24/066/2004*)

06/04/2005

AI INDEX: MDE 24/016/2005



**Muhammad Haydar Zammar in Hamburg, Germany, 3/10/01. © AP**

According to reports given to Amnesty International, Muhammad Haydar Zammar was taken from his solitary confinement cell in the Palestine Branch (*Far' Falastin*) of Military Intelligence, Damascus, in October 2004, and moved to an unknown location. There is no new information available about him after that date.

Amnesty International is gravely concerned over the fate of Muhammad Haydar Zammar. In October 2004 he was already reported to be in a 'skeletal' physical state as a result of three years' detention without charge in prolonged, incommunicado, solitary detention, in cruel, inhuman and degrading conditions. It is thought that he has still not been charged with any offence, nor had access to a lawyer, to his family, or to a doctor. German Consular officials have reportedly not had access to him since one visit in summer or autumn 2002.

On 19 March 2005, the UK's *Guardian* newspaper published an article, 'The New Guantánamos', about the "global network of detention centres" to which the US "renders" alleged "terrorist" suspects for rigorous interrogation, often under torture. Most of the host countries are already partners in the US coalition in the "war on terror" while others, notably Syria, are "pragmatic associates working privately alongside the CIA and US Special Forces". According to Robert Baer, a former CIA case officer in the Middle East, "We pick up a suspect or we arrange for one of our partner countries to do it. Then the suspect is placed on civilian transport to a third country where, let's make no bones about it, they use torture." As Baer said on BBC Radio 4: "If you send a prisoner to Jordan you get a better

interrogation. If you send a prisoner, for instance, to Egypt you will probably never see him again, the same way with Syria.” (*Transcript of ‘File on 4 – Rendition’*, 8 February 2005)

An executive Gulfstream V Turbo jet, tail-fin number N379P, based at an airstrip in Smithfield, North Carolina, USA, has reportedly been used at least 72 times to transport “rendered” suspects, including, according to the *Guardian*, in June 2002 when it landed in Morocco to pick up German national Mohammed Zamar [sic], who was “rendered” to Syria, his country of origin, before disappearing. [NB, according to Amnesty International’s information, and as stated in MDE 24/066/2004, the “rendering” occurred in November 2001.]

### **What can you do?**

#### **You can write to the Syrian Minister of the Interior, Ghazi Kan’an, in English, Arabic, French, or your own language:**

- welcoming his reported statement in March 2004 that torture and ill-treatment in Syrian prisons is to be condemned and that any perpetrators of such abuse be punished;
- but expressing grave concern at reports of the “disappearance” of German-Syrian national Muhammad Haydar Zammar following three years’ detention without charge in prolonged, incommunicado, solitary detention, in cruel, inhuman and degrading conditions;
- encouraging Minister Kan’an to investigate the reports of torture and ill-treatment in line with Syria’s obligations under the UN Convention Against Torture, which Syria ratified in August 2004, and requesting that anyone found responsible be brought to account;
- seeking assurances that no information obtained under torture or duress will be admitted as “evidence” against Muhammad Haydar Zammar;
- urging that he clarifies whether Muhammad Haydar Zammar is alive, and requesting that his whereabouts be disclosed and that he be treated humanely, be given immediate access to German consular officials, lawyers, relatives and adequate medical treatment;
- and urging that Muhammad Haydar Zammar be released unless he is to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence and given a prompt and fair trial.

#### **You can write to the German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, in German, English, French, or your own language:**

- expressing grave concern at reports that German-Syrian national Muhammad Haydar Zammar has “disappeared” following three years’ detention without charge in prolonged, incommunicado, solitary detention, in cruel, inhuman and degrading conditions;
- urging that the German authorities make representations to the Syrian government to clarify whether Muhammad Haydar Zammar is alive, and requesting that his whereabouts be disclosed and that he be treated humanely, be given immediate access to German consular officials, lawyers, relatives and adequate medical treatment;
- expressing concern that the German authorities have reportedly not had access to Muhammad Haydar Zammar since at least the autumn of 2002;
- and urging that the German authorities make representations to the Syrian government calling for Muhammad Haydar Zammar to be released unless he is to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence and given a prompt and fair trial.

#### **You can write to the US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, in English, Arabic, French, or your own language:**

- expressing grave concern at the reported “disappearance” of Muhammad Haydar Zammar following three years’ detention without charge in prolonged, incommunicado, solitary detention, in cruel, inhuman and degrading conditions;
- expressing concern at the alleged role played by the US authorities in his “rendition” from Morocco to Syria;
- urging that the US authorities make representations to the Syrian government to clarify whether Muhammad Haydar Zammar is alive, and requesting that his whereabouts be disclosed, that he be treated humanely and given immediate access to German consular officials, lawyers, relatives and adequate medical treatment;
- urging that allegations of torture and ill-treatment of Muhammad Haydar Zammar in

Morocco and in Syria and of alleged US involvement be thoroughly investigated and that anyone found responsible be brought to account;  
- seeking assurances that no information obtained under torture or duress will be admitted as “evidence” against Muhammad Haydar Zammar;  
- and urging that the US authorities make representations to the Syrian government calling for Muhammad Haydar Zammar to be released unless he is to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence and given a prompt and fair trial.

**To the Syrian authorities:**

His Excellency General Ghazi Kan'an  
Minister of Interior  
Ministry of Interior  
Merjeh Circle  
Damascus  
Syrian Arab Republic  
**Fax:** + 963 11 222 3428  
[admin@civilaffair-moi.gov.sy](mailto:admin@civilaffair-moi.gov.sy)  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency\*

**To the German authorities:**

Joschka Fischer  
The Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Auswärtiges Amt  
11013 Berlin  
Germany  
**Fax:** +49 30 5000 3402  
**Salutation:** Dear Minister

**To the US authorities:**

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
US Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington  
DC 205 520 USA  
**Fax:** +1 202 261 8577  
**Email:** [http://contact-us.state.gov/ask\\_form\\_cat/ask\\_form\\_secretary.html](http://contact-us.state.gov/ask_form_cat/ask_form_secretary.html)  
**Salutation:** Dear Secretary of State