

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 24/03/92

Distr: UA/SC

29 January 1992

Further information on UA 13/92 (MDE 24/01/92, 9 January 1992) and follow-up MDE 24/02/92, 17 January 1992 - Torture/Incommunicado Detention

**SYRIA: Aktham Nu'aysa
and six others**

and new name: Samir Nu'aysa

Amnesty International has received reports that Aktham Nu'aysa's brother, Samir Nu'aysa, a civil engineer born in 1959 has been detained in order to put pressure on Aktham to give information about the Committees for the Defence of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria. He was reportedly arrested on 18 January 1992 in Lataqiyya by members of al-Amn al-'Askari (Military Security) and has since been held incommunicado in the Military Interrogation Centre in Damascus. Amnesty International fears that he may be at risk of being tortured. In addition, the organization believes that if Samir Nu'aysa is being held solely to force his brother to divulge information he would be a prisoner of conscience.

Aktham Nu'aysa is reportedly still held incommunicado in Harasta Military Hospital. The five others arrested with him, including Muhammad 'Ali Habib and Amjad Bahbuha, are also said to still be held incommunicado, in the Military Interrogation Centre in Damascus. Amnesty International does not have the names and details of the other three. None of the six detainees, including Aktham Nu'aysa, is known to have used or advocated violence and all may be held solely for having peacefully exercised their right to freedom of expression.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at reports that Samir Nu'aysa has been detained reportedly in order to force his brother, Aktham Nu'aysa, to divulge information and calling for his immediate and unconditional release if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and given a prompt and fair trial;
- seeking assurances that Samir Nu'aysa is being treated humanely and is not being subjected to torture and ill-treatment;
- continuing to express grave concern over reports that Aktham Nu'aysa and the other five arrested with him were tortured; requesting that these allegations be immediately investigated, that the findings be made public and that those found responsible for the torture be brought to justice;
- asking for their immediate release unless they are to be charged with a

recognizably criminal offence and given a prompt and fair trial;

- requesting that all these detainees be given prompt access to their families and lawyers, and that all necessary medical care be provided.

Page 2 fo 2FU 13/92

APPEALS TO

1) His Excellency **Your Excellency**
President Hafez al-Assad
Presidential Palace
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: President al-Assad, Damascus, Syria
Telexes: 419160 munjed sy

2) His Excellency Muhammad Harba **Your Excellency**
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Damascus, Syria

3) His Excellency Khaled al-Ansari **Your Excellency**
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Nasr Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Damascus, Syria

4) His Excellency Faruq al-Shar'a **Your Excellency**
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Al-Rashid Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegram: Foreign Affairs Minister, Damascus, Syria
Telexes: 411922

5) His Excellency Dr. Iyad al-Shatti **Your Excellency**
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
al-Majlis al-Niyabi Street
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telegrams: Health Minister, Damascus, Syria
Telexes: health 412655 sy

COPIES TO:

Medical Association:
Dr. M. Cherif Bakle
Ordre des Mediciens Syriens
Place de l'Etoile
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

and to diplomatic representatives of Syria in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 March 1992.