

EXTERNAL

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FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEDICAL CONCERN

Ahmad SUWAIDANI and seven others

(See MDE 24/01/94, 14 February 1994)

SYRIA

Amnesty International has learned that Ahmad Suwaidani has been released from prison after nearly 25 years imprisonment without charge or trial. At the beginning of February 1994 he suffered a stroke and was admitted to Teshmin hospital in Damascus; he was discharged from hospital and released on 21 February and is now at home with his family.

Ahmad Suwaidani is a former diplomat and member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command who was arrested on 11 July 1969 suspected of being a pro-Iraqi Ba'thist. Two others were released with him - Hadithe Murade and Mustafa Rustum. They were among a group of former government and Ba'th Party officials detained since their arrest between 1970 and 1972.

Five prisoners of conscience from this group now remain in prison following three deaths in the last 14 months and a number of releases over the last few years. Those who are still imprisoned are: Muhammad 'Id 'Ashawi, who served as Minister of interior and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fawzi Rida, 'Abd al-Hamid Miqdad, 'Adel Na'issa and Dafi Jam'ani. Dafi Jam'ani, who is in his mid-seventies, is the oldest in the group; the others are in their sixties.

Amnesty International welcomes the three recent releases, but continues to urge the immediate and unconditional release of the remaining five.

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Middle East
Date: 24 February 1994

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

**Ahmad SUWAIDANI and seven others
(See MDE 24/01/94, 14 February 1994)
SYRIA**

Keywords

Theme: POCs/ill-health/detention without charge or trial

Summary

Ahmad Suwaidani, who was hospitalized following a stroke in early February 1994 has now been released from prison together with two other prisoners who have been in detention for over 20 years. Five of this group of former government and Ba'th Party officials now remain in prison and Amnesty International is appealing for their urgent release.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses below:

- welcoming the release of Ahmad Suwaidani, Hadithe Murad and Mustafa Rustum and urging that the five remaining prisoners connected with the former government or Ba'th Party be released from prison without further delay

Address

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

Salutation: Your Excellency

Copies to:

diplomatic representatives of Syria accredited to your country