

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 24/06/93

Distrib: PG/SC

Date: 31 August 1993

*FOLLOW-UP TO MEDICAL CONCERN*

(See MDE 24/29/92 - 7 December 1992, MDE 24/04/93 - 26 May 1993  
and MDE 24/05/93 - 10 August 1993)

**Salah Jadid**  
**SYRIA**

Amnesty International has written to President Hafez al-Assad expressing grave concern about the sudden death of Salah Jadid in al-Mezze Prison, Damascus, on 19 August 1993, after almost 23 years of detention without charge or trial.

The organization is seriously concerned at the circumstances surrounding Salah Jadid's sudden death and is calling for an immediate inquest with the findings to be made public. The officially recorded cause of death has been given as "septic shock, acute kidney failure and a sharp drop in blood pressure", but no information has been made available about what led to septic shock. Although he is reported to have suffered from rheumatism and osteoporosis, he is not known to have had any other recent health problems.

Salah Jadid, born near the coastal city of Lataqiyya in North West Syria, was married with five children, the youngest of whom was born six months after his arrest. He was a lieutenant-colonel in the Syrian army and served as Army Chief-of-Staff between 1963 and 1965. In August 1965 he left the army and was appointed to the civilian post of Assistant Secretary General of the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party. He held this post until November 1970 when President Hafez al-Assad took power in a bloodless coup d'état. Salah Jadid and many other government and Ba'th Party officials refused to cooperate with President Hafez al-Assad and were arrested and detained. Many have since been released, a significant proportion on health grounds. The most recent releases occurred in June 1993 when five of the detainees were freed, including one - Kamel Hussain - who was reportedly suffering from active tuberculosis. At least seven, however, remain in detention without charge or trial over 20 years after their arrest. All are adopted by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience.

Salah Jadid's death is the third among this group of prisoners - former government and Ba'th Party officials - within the last nine months. Two others, who were released at the end of August 1992, died within months of release. Dr Nour al-Din al-Atassi, the former President, died of cancer of the oesophagus on 3 December 1992, just over three months after his release and Muhammad Rabah al-Tawil, the former Minister of the Interior, died at the end of April 1993, eight months after being released. Both had been in detention without charge or trial since December 1970.

There is considerable concern over these recent deaths and for the remaining seven who are still held.

Over the years Amnesty International has issued numerous appeals urging the Syrian authorities to release this group of prisoners of conscience. Amnesty International is now expressing its grave concern to the Syrian government about the death of Salah Jadid and is

calling for further information about his cause of death to be made known publicly. It is in addition again calling for the release of the remaining detainees as a matter of urgency.

The seven remaining detainees include Muhammad 'Id 'Ashawi, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Hadithe Murade, former member of the Regional Command and Political Office of the Ba'th Party, who have been held since their arrest in December 1970. All are said to be in poor health, suffering from various complaints brought on by over two decades of detention without charge or trial. Muhammad 'Id 'Ashawi has reportedly been suffering from anaemia, rheumatism and a gastric ulcer. The other five are: Dafi Jam'ani (in his early seventies), 'Abd al-Hamid Miqdad (in his late fifties), 'Adel Na'issa (in his early sixties), Fawzi Rida (in his early sixties), and Mustafa Rustum (in his early sixties).

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To: Medical professionals

From: Medical Office

Date: 31 August 1993

*FOLLOW-UP TO MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION*

(See MDE 24/29/92 - 7 December 1992, MDE 24/04/93 - 26 May 1993  
and MDE 24/05/93 - 10 August 1993)

**Salah Jadid and others  
SYRIA**

**Keywords**

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

**Summary**

Salah Jadid, a prisoner of conscience in his sixties, died on 19 August 1993 after almost 23 years in detention without charge or trial. He was one of a group of former government and Ba'th Party officials who have been detained since 1970. He is the third of this group of prisoners to have died within the last nine months. Please see the details attached.

**Recommended Actions**

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses below:

- expressing concern at the death of Salah Jadid on 19 August 1993 and seeking further information about the cause of his death
- asking whether there has been an inquest into his death in custody and, if not, urging that an inquest is carried out without delay and the findings made public
- noting that two others from this group of prisoners have died within the last year, both within months of their release and seeking information on the state of health and the medical care which is available to the surviving prisoners
- expressing concern for the remaining seven prisoners who have now been held for over 20 years without charge or trial and urging their release on the grounds that they are prisoners of conscience

**Addresses**

His Excellency  
President Hafez al-Assad  
Presidential Palace  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

His Excellency Muhammad Harba  
Minister of the Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

His Excellency Abdullah Talaba  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

His Excellency Dr. Iyad al-Shatti  
Minister of Health  
Ministry of Health  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

His Excellency Faruq al-Shar'a  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

**Please write also direct to the nearest Syrian embassy**