

PUBLIC

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8 May 2001

Further information on UA 238/98 (MDE 24/15/98, 10 September 2000) and follow-up (MDE 24/14/00, 27 April 2000; MDE 24/16/00, 22 May 2000) - Medical concern/Prisoner of Conscience

**SYRIAN**Nizar Nayyuf

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Prisoner of conscience Nizar Nayyuf was released on 6 May. However, the authorities continue to deny him his civil rights, including his right to political participation, and have imposed restrictions on his movement and banned him from travelling abroad.

Nizar Nayyuf was released from Sednaya Prison after serving nine years of a 10-year sentence. He had been imprisoned for his involvement with the unauthorized Committee for the Defence of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights (CDF), after a grossly unfair trial before the Syrian Supreme State Court in 1992.

Nizar Nayyuf has been seriously ill during his detention, and is unable to walk without the support of a stick. He has an eye infection and suffers from backpain. Recent medical reports indicate that he has a disease of the lower spine. He has previously suffered from ruptured disks, apparently caused by torture on the "German Chair" (a metal chair with moving parts, which stretches the spine and causes severe pressure on the victim's neck and limbs).

In recent years Nizar Nayyuf received several awards for his work as a human rights defender, from organizations including Reporters sans Frontières, Amnesty International and UNESCO.

**Many thanks to all those who took part in this appeal. Those who wish to do so may send a final round of appeals in English, Arabic, French or your own language, welcoming the release of Nizar Nayyuf, but calling for his civil rights to be respected and for the restrictions on his movement to be lifted.**

**APPEALS TO:**

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and to diplomatic representatives of Syria accredited to your country.