

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 13/92 (MDE 24/01/92, 9 January 1992) - and follow-up(s): MDE 24/02/92 of 17 January 1992, MDE 24/03/92 of 29 January 1992, MDE 24/06/92 of 20 March 1992 - Prisoners of Conscience/Incommunicado Detention/Medical Concern

SYRIA: Aktham Nu'aysa  
Muhammad 'Ali Habib  
'Afif Muzhir  
Samir Nu'aysa, released  
Nizar Nayyuf  
Bassam al-Shaykh  
Thabit Murad  
Hassan 'Ali  
Hussam Salama  
Jadi' Nawfal  
Ya'qub Musa  
Yasser Askif, released  
Nazim Husayn, released  
Nabil Na'us, released

and Amjad Bahbuha, released

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Four of the fourteen prisoners of conscience, Samir Nu'aysa, Yasser Askif, Nazim Husayn and Nabil Na'us, convicted in connection with the Committee for the Defence of Democratic Freedoms and Human rights in Syria (CDF), were released at the end of May 1992. They had been sentenced to three years' imprisonment on the charge of withholding information. Amnesty International has learned that Amjad Bahbuha was released in February before the trial of the fourteen prisoners which began on 29 February and ended on 17 March 1992.

However, Amnesty International has received reports that the ten remaining prisoners of conscience continue to be held incommunicado in Saidnaya prison. The organization has also received reports that three of them, Aktham Nu'aysa, Nizar Nayyuf and 'Afif Muzhir, who are ill, are being denied medical treatment.

Aktham Nu'aysa and Nizar Nayyuf are said to be still suffering from the effects of the torture to which they were allegedly subjected during their pre-trial detention in Fara'al-Tahquq al-Askari, Military Interrogation Branch, in Damascus. 'Afif Muzhir is said to be suffering from an illness which he had before his arrest.

Amnesty International calls on the Syrian authorities to ensure that the three ill prisoners are given prompt access to adequate medical care and that all

ten prisoners be given immediate access to their relatives, lawyers and doctors. The organization also calls for their immediate and unconditional release as prisoners of conscience.

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**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters**

- urging that Aktham Nu'aysa, Nizar Nayyuf and 'Afif Muzhir, who are reportedly being denied medical treatment in prison, be given prompt access to adequate medical care;

- expressing concern at reports that the ten prisoners of conscience continue to be held incommunicado and urging that they be allowed immediate access to family, lawyers and doctors while in prison;

- welcoming the release of Samir Nu'aysa, Yasser Askif, Nazim Husayn and Nabil Na'us at the end of May 1992, but also expressing concern at the continued imprisonment of the ten remaining prisoners of conscience and calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) 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]**

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

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

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 21 July 1992.