

EXTERNAL

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Middle East
Date: 1 September 1992

FOLLOW UP TO MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION
(See MDE 24/11/92 - 12 May 1992)
Dr Nour al-Din al-Atassi
SYRIA

Keywords

Theme: Long-term POC/ill-health

Profession/association: Doctor/Former head of state

Dr Nour al-Din al-Atassi, aged 63 and former Syrian President and Prime Minister, was released from detention on 28 August 1992 after almost 22 years' imprisonment. He had been arrested in November 1970 following a coup which brought President Hafez al-Assad to power. Other members of Dr al-Atassi's government or individuals connected with his government were arrested around the same time for refusing to cooperate with the new government. 14 of them still remain in prison without charge or trial. (A second former minister, Muhammad Rabah al-Tawil, has also been released.)

Dr Nour al-Din al-Atassi

Dr Nour al-Din al-Atassi was held in al-Mezze Military Prison, also without charge or trial. In April 1992 he was admitted to Tishrin Hospital in Damascus after he reportedly suffering a heart attack.

He also suffers from diabetes and was found to have intestinal polyps on admission to hospital. Dr al-Atassi was discharged from hospital and released from imprisonment on the morning of 28 August.

No further action is requested at present. Thank you to all those who appealed.