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Further Information on UA 258/05 (MDE 24/089/2005, 28 September 2005) – Fear of torture

SYRIA **Heba al-Khaled (f), aged 17**
 Rola al-Khaled (f), aged 20, her sister
 Nadia al-Satour (f), and her baby

Amnesty International has recently received information that the three young women named above were released from detention towards the end of 2005. No further information is available about the circumstances of the release of Heba al-Khaled, Rola al-Khaled and Nadia al-Satour, nor the conditions of their detention.

Heba al-Khaled, Rola al-Khaled and Nadia al-Satour were arrested on 3 September 2005, following, according to Syrian state media, a gun battle in Hama province, in the west of the country, between the Anti-Terror Squad and militants of the Jund al-Sham ("Soldiers of the Levant") armed group. Five Jund al-Sham members were reportedly killed and two security officers injured. The women were arrested when the security forces were unable to find their husbands, who are allegedly involved with Jund al-Sham. They were first detained in the town of Hama, before being transferred to the Military Intelligence Palestine Branch in Damascus. They were reportedly held as hostages to put pressure on their husbands to give themselves up, even though Heba al-Khaled and her sister Rola al-Khaled were pregnant at the time they were detained, and Nadia al-Satour reportedly had her young baby with her.

Thanks to all those who sent appeals on this case. No further action is required