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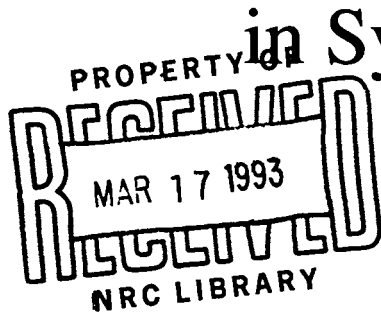
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Scientists and Human Rights in Syria



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**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
1993**

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Preface

As reflected in the text of this report, Syria has been, and may well still be, the country with the highest number of scientists, engineers, and health professionals detained for political reasons. Although recent amnesties announced by the Syrian government have freed more than 3,500 political detainees, no lists of those released have been published. Because of this lack of information and because of the secretive manner in which human rights cases are handled by the Syrian government, it has been impossible to confirm exactly how many of the 287 persons whose cases have been undertaken by the Committee on Human Rights (CHR) have been freed; our sources indicate that at least 49 are no longer incarcerated. The Committee on Human Rights hopes that by publishing this report and circulating its lists, the Syrian government will be encouraged to give an accounting of those who have been released and those who remain in detention. We also hope to focus attention on the plight of Syrian scientists, engineers, and health professionals and encourage international efforts in their behalf.

The prolonged detention on political grounds of so many colleagues in the science and health fields has been of long-standing concern to the committee. Of the 49 scientists known to be released, many were held without charge or trial for more than 11 years. Of the 238 scientists who may still remain in detention, their periods of incarceration have also been of considerable length. According to our information, of the university professors we know to have been released, not one has been allowed to resume his or her university career.

The committee continues to receive information about new arrests of scientists, engineers, and health professionals. Moreover, the professional associations of engineers, medical professionals, and pharmacists are now under strict government control. Following their adoption of resolutions in support of human rights reform, these essentially autonomous associations were dissolved by the government in 1980. They were then recreated under government supervision, with their activities and relationships with scientists abroad closely monitored.

The Committee on Human Rights, created in 1976, includes members of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), and the Institute of Medicine (IOM). Under its mandate, the committee works in behalf of scientists, engineers, and health professionals who are detained, imprisoned or exiled, or who have disappeared, for the nonviolent exercise of their fundamental rights. It also promotes investigation and prosecution in cases of colleagues who have been killed for political reasons (see Appendix A).

For more than a decade the Syrian government did not acknowledge our appeals or respond to our requests for information about detained scientists, engineers, and health professionals. In 1991, however, as the Syrian government sought to improve its relations with the West and gain greater international acceptability, it became somewhat more receptive to our efforts.

In response to our request, in February 1992 the Syrian ambassador to the United States, Walid al-Moualem, met with a CHR delegation. The delegation, which I chaired, was composed of Roberta Cohen, CHR senior adviser; E. William Colglazier, executive director of the National Research Council's Office of International Affairs; Gerald Dinneen, foreign secretary of the NAE; and Jerome Karle, Nobel laureate and CHR member. We presented our lists to the ambassador, requested the names of those freed, and urged the speedy release of all scientific colleagues who remain in detention on political grounds. We also requested information about the cases of colleagues who reportedly had died in detention. Delegation members emphasized that given significant human rights improvements, they would be willing to explore how U.S. scientists and scientific organizations could work together with their colleagues in Syria.

Several months after this meeting, the NAS received an invitation from the Supreme Council of Sciences in Syria to participate in a Science Week to be held in Damascus on November 7-13. NAS President Frank Press responded that, in accordance with the delegation's position when it met with Ambassador Walid al-Moualem, the NAS would be interested in participating if its delegates to the conference, Milton D. Van Dyke of the NAE, Alicia H. Munnell of the IOM, and a professional staff member, could arrive in Damascus a few days before the conference to discuss con-

Introduction

Syria may well be the country with the highest number of scientists detained for political reasons in the world. Prior to amnesties in 1991 and 1992, the Committee on Human Rights (CHR) compiled a list of 287 scientists, engineers, and health professionals believed to be detained or imprisoned on political grounds. The amnesties freed more than 3,500 political detainees, but the Syrian government has refused to publish a list of those who have been released. The CHR has been able to confirm that 49 of its 287 cases are among those released, but the status of the remaining 238 cases is still unknown although it is believed that a considerable number remain incarcerated.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, scientists, engineers, and health professionals in Syria were in the forefront of efforts to seek human rights reform and greater political liberalization. Following protests by the engineering, medical, and bar associations against a prolonged “state of emergency,” the widespread practice of arbitrary arrest, and other serious violations of human rights, the Syrian authorities detained many of the scientific colleagues whose names appear on our lists. They also dissolved the engineers’, medical, and pharmacists’ associations and recreated them under strict government and Ba’ath Party control. Other scientific colleagues whose names appear on our lists have been detained in more recent years for their alleged association with prohibited political parties (e.g., the Communist Party Political Bureau and the Party for Communist Action, both

offshoots of the legal Communist Party; the Arab Socialist Unity Party, a Nasserist political group; and the Arab Socialist Democratic Ba'ath Party). Still others have been detained for acts of political opposition or attempts to form human rights organizations.

The CHR believes that the prolonged incarceration of large numbers of professionals and the repression of their associations shows that the Syrian government gives greater priority to political control than to needed economic development. During the 1980s, the Syrian economy suffered a lack of trained professionals that was unquestionably exacerbated by the detention of such large numbers of scientific personnel (Collello, 1988:114).¹ Syria also experienced a period of economic stagnation described as the "lost decade for development" (Perthes, 1992:37,57-8). Political repression reportedly contributed to this stagnation and the decline in living standards that most Syrians experienced. As one human rights organization commented, Syria's prisons contain "a who's who of the nation's professional elite, including hundreds of engineers, doctors and university professors" (Middle East Watch, 1992c:7).

The first part of this report provides information about detained colleagues, recent releases, and new arrests. The second part gives a former prisoner's eyewitness account of the arrest and detention in 1980 of a group of 21 engineers and lawyers who were then held for nearly 12 years because of their participation in the human rights activities of the engineers' and bar associations. The third part discusses current controls over the professional associations and prospects for liberalization. The final part presents the committee's conclusions.

The appendices detail information on CHR cases in Syria. Appendix B contains the names of 137 scientists, engineers, and health professionals reported to be detained or imprisoned in Syria: 76 engineers, 55 health professionals, and 6 in other scientific fields. These cases came to our attention from a variety of sources; we believe the names and information about the cases to be reliable. Appendix C contains the names of 55 engineers and 46 health professionals reported to be in detention, but we cannot fully verify all information about their cases. Appendix D contains the names of a number of engineers and health professionals reported to have died in detention, to have been killed or executed, or to have disappeared while in detention. Appendix E contains the names of the 49 scientists, engineers, and health professionals recently released from detention. The CHR faced considerable difficulty in compiling and verifying these names,

¹ For complete bibliographic information on the citations, see "References and Bibliography."

given their large numbers and the refusal of the Syrian government to provide information. Although, to the best of our knowledge, all of the people on the lists have been detained or imprisoned for political reasons and have not used or advocated violence, it has not always been possible to confirm that every person listed can be considered a prisoner of conscience.

Repression of Scientists

BACKGROUND

President Hafez al-Assad, a former military officer, has maintained tight political control over Syria during the more than 20 years he has ruled the country. Assad was a lieutenant general and minister of defense when he came to power in a coup d'etat on November 13, 1970. Basing his authority on both the military and the Ba'ath Party, he ousted and jailed those elements of the Ba'ath Party and other political groups that opposed him. In national referenda held every 7 years since 1971, Assad has been "elected" and "reelected" president by overwhelming majorities, usually in the 99 percent range.

According to the 1992 human rights report of the U.S. Department of State (1992:1,604), President Assad "wields almost absolute authority" over a regime that "does not hesitate to use force against its citizens when it feels it is threatened." In the early 1980s, for example, following widespread popular unrest, the government reportedly killed 10,000 to 20,000 Syrian citizens when it ruthlessly crushed a rebellion in Hama and other cities. From 1979 to 1982, more than 1,000 political detainees were reportedly executed in Syrian jails by security forces. Until the recent amnesties, 7,500 people or more were reported to be in detention for political reasons both in Syria and Syrian-occupied Lebanon.

Even with the release of more than 3,500 people in 1991, there may still be more than 4,000 in political detention in Syria. Many of them have

been held without charge or trial for lengthy periods, some for more than two decades.² According to Middle East Watch (1992c:7), Syria has “one of the highest rates of detention without charge in the world” and “some of the world’s longest held prisoners”: Of the population of 12 million, it estimates that 1 Syrian in 3,000 is in political detention.

President Assad relies on three institutions to maintain his rule: the army, the ruling Ba’ath Party, and the security services. A state of emergency in force since 1963, when the Ba’ath Party first seized power, gives the security forces wide powers to arrest and detain persons indefinitely if they are suspected of opposition to the government or of endangering public security and order. It also suspends most of the human rights guarantees in the Syrian Constitution.³

During the late 1970s a movement began in Syrian professional circles calling for the lifting of the state of emergency and the institution of safeguards against human rights abuse. The Bar Association initiated the movement, and the engineers’ and medical associations quickly followed suit. (It is relevant to note that in 1979 the Syrian government ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a U.N. treaty guaranteeing a broad range of fundamental human rights.) In March 1980, in joint meetings, the three associations called on the government to release political detainees, allow freedom of expression and association, and end the state of emergency. The associations repudiated violence of any kind (in contrast to the fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood, which at that time was engaged in violent protest against the Syrian government). When the government failed to enact human rights reforms, despite promises to do so, a 1-day national strike was called for March 31 by the bar, medical, pharmacists’, and engineers’ associations. The government thereupon dissolved the associations and arrested hundreds of their members.

For more than 10 years the Syrian government refused to provide information about any of our detained scientific colleagues. Repeated requests and appeals by the CHR and other human rights organizations went unanswered. Exceptions did occur, however, when Arab professional organizations intervened. When Arab medical associations meeting in Algiers in the

² A recent Middle East Watch report (1992c) estimates that about 4,400 to 4,800 people remain in political detention in Syria following recent amnesties. Amnesty International (1992) reports that “thousands” of prisoners of conscience and political prisoners remain incarcerated following the amnesties of 1991 and 1992. The Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria (1991) give higher figures—14,000 political prisoners in Syria and Syrian-occupied Lebanon, with 7,000 held in Syria.

³ Specifically, the State of Emergency Law restricts individuals with respect to meetings, residence, and travel. It sanctions preventive arrest, censorship, evacuation or isolation of areas, and requisitioning or sequestration of property; see text of State of Emergency Law in Amnesty International (1992:46-48).

spring of 1980 protested the detention of the General Secretary of the Syrian Medical Association, the Syrian government is reported to have released him (although scores of other health professionals remained imprisoned). The government also responded to the intercessions of the Arab Lawyers Union (Cairo), and by 1989 all of the lawyers detained in 1980 had been released.⁴

CHANGING POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Syria's desire to improve its relations with the West appears to be largely responsible for its recent readiness to make some human rights concessions. The collapse of the Soviet Union has left Syria without the strong backing it had enjoyed from the communist bloc since the 1960s and forced it to develop closer ties to Western governments. Worldwide movements for democracy and human rights have also had their impact, making the Syrian government more inclined to take steps to improve its human rights record.

Although many observers have called most of the improvements "cosmetic," they have in fact created a better climate and produced some important results. In both 1989 and 1990 the government allowed demonstrations in front of the presidential palace by the mothers and wives of political prisoners and disappeared persons. In 1989 representatives of Amnesty International, participating in a conference held in Damascus, had discussions with the Syrian vice president and other government officials, the first such contacts by Amnesty International since 1978. Prior to President Assad's "reelection" on December 2, 1991, between 700 and 800 political detainees were released from Syrian jails, mostly women prisoners and members of banned political parties. On December 18, 1991, Radio Damascus announced that an additional 2,864 detainees had been released by presidential decree. By all accounts, both announcements have proved to be true. On March 31, 1992, a presidential amnesty brought the release of 500 detainees, including elderly prisoners and persons who had committed economic crimes. In December 1992 another amnesty freed 554 persons charged with state security offenses. In April 1992 it was announced that travel and property restrictions on the Syrian Jewish community would be lifted (Friedman, 1992).⁵ And for the first time, an international human rights organization,

⁴ One of the only other known responses of the Syrian government to a human rights intercession was in 1991: The government responded to the appeals of the U.S. government and of Jewish organizations and released four Jewish prisoners incarcerated for having attempted to leave the country without exit visas.

⁵ Subsequent reports indicate that the Syrian government has halted exit permits to its Jewish citizens; see *New York Times* (1992:A10).

the International Commission of Jurists, was allowed, in March 1992, to send an observer to the closing session of a political trial in which engineers and health professionals were involved (Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, 1992b). In December 1992 Amnesty International was allowed entry to observe a political trial.

RECENTLY FREED SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Many of the colleagues released in the recent amnesties were prominent members of the scientific, engineering, and medical communities who had been held for lengthy periods of detention without charge or trial. Some had been active members of the engineers' and medical associations and had supported their calls for human rights and political reform. Among those recently released (see Appendix E for a complete list):

Riad al-Bastati, former secretary general of the Damascus branch of the Syrian Engineers' Association, held for more than 11 years;

Muhammad Nabil Salim, professor of soil mechanics and head of the Department of Civil Engineering at Aleppo University, held for more than 11 years;

Jalal Khanji, lecturer in engineering at the University of Aleppo, held for more than 11 years;

Jihad Msouti, assistant professor of mechanical and electrical engineering at the University of Damascus, held for more than 11 years;

Ghassan Najjar, mechanical engineer and lecturer at the University of Aleppo, held for more than 11 years;

Mamoun Sawah, electrical engineer in private practice in Damascus and general manager of Schindler Elevator Company, held for more than 11 years;

Abdul Al-Hadi Akhras, civil engineer and prominent building contractor in private practice in Aleppo, held for more than 11 years;

Mahmoud al-Jaziri, professor of surgery in the Faculty of Medicine, Damascus University, held for more than 11 years;

Salman 'Abdallah, 61-year-old economist and former member of the National Command of the Ba'ath Party, held for more than 20 years.

Although the CHR welcomes these releases, it notes that the prisoners had been arbitrarily arrested and held without charge or trial on political grounds for lengthy periods of time. A substantial number of those detained may have been tortured. Most, if not all, had no access to legal counsel.

Moreover, recently released colleagues who were university faculty members are reportedly not being allowed to resume their university careers. The

following university professors of engineering and medicine reportedly have been barred from returning to their posts, presumably because of their political beliefs and associations, and have received no compensation for their period in detention:

Muhammad Karamee Baddura, former professor of engineering at the University of Damascus;

Jalal Khanji, former lecturer in engineering at the University of Aleppo;

Jihad Msouti, former assistant professor of mechanical and electrical engineering at the University of Damascus;

Ghassan Najjar, mechanical engineer and former lecturer at the University of Aleppo;

Muhammad Nabil Salim, former professor of soil mechanics and head of the Department of Civil Engineering at Aleppo University;

Muhammad Nizar al-Daqr, former professor of dermatology at the University of Damascus;

'Abd Al-Ra'uf 'Ubaid, former professor of neurology at the University of Aleppo.

The CHR has learned that this practice may not previously have been the case. For example, Asif Shaheen, a professor of mechanical engineering reportedly released from detention in 1986, was allowed to return to his teaching post at the University of Damascus.

Recently released engineers who worked for private companies or who had been self-employed have received no compensation for their period in detention. Some of the companies they worked for, however, have offered to reemploy them, and some have returned to private practice. It is ironic that engineers who worked for the government have fared the best. Those who were detained but not tried have reportedly been allowed to return to their positions and also have received back pay. Similarly, doctors released from detention have been able to resume their work in public hospitals. Those seeking to resume their private practices have been placing announcements in newspapers to inform their former patients of their return. The CHR does not know whether Syrians are discouraged from patronizing health professionals and engineers formerly in detention. One doctor interviewed by CHR said that some of his family members and friends were afraid to see or speak with him after his release and that they presumably would be too frightened to visit him professionally.

NEW ARRESTS

Releases of scientists, engineers, and health professionals have gone hand in hand with new arrests of others who engage in human rights work,

undertake political activities, or express their political opinions.⁶ In late 1991 and early 1992, 17 people were arrested for participating in the activities of the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria (CDF). This organization was set up in 1989 as an unofficial human rights group to campaign for the lifting of the state of emergency, the release of political prisoners, and respect for individual freedoms. The activities of the people arrested included human rights monitoring and questioning the fairness of a presidential referendum (won by President Assad with 99.9 percent of the vote in December 1991). The charges against them included disseminating “false information” injurious to the security of the state, undermining “confidence” in the Ba’ath revolution, belonging to an illegal organization, and withholding information.

Three of the 17 arrested are in scientific fields, and their cases were taken up by the CHR; two remain in prison:

Muhammad Ali Habib, a lecturer in engineering at the University of Latakkiya, sentenced to 9 years’ imprisonment with hard labor; he was reportedly mistreated during interrogation and is being held in Saidnaya Prison.

Nizar Ben Ali Naif (Nayyuf), a sociologist, was sentenced to 10 years’ imprisonment with hard labor; according to trial observers, he was unable to walk into the court room unaided because he had apparently been tortured; he is being held in Saidnaya Prison.

The third scientist who was arrested, Samir Nu’aysa, a civil engineer, was sentenced to 3 years’ imprisonment for withholding information from the security forces about his brother Aktham, an active CDF lawyer, who was sentenced to 9 years’ imprisonment; Samir Nu’aysa was released in May 1992 after 5 months in prison.

Although these defendants were charged and tried—an improvement over the practice of indefinite detention—the trial was held in a state security court, and the charges were highly questionable. According to lawyers’ organizations which monitored the trial, the proceedings violated basic human rights standards. Some of the defendants had clearly been tortured, lengthy sentences were meted out for the nonviolent expression of political opinion, and no appeal was allowed (see Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, 1992b). Moreover, in the case of Nizar Ben Ali Naif (Nayyuf), his

⁶ Middle East Watch (1992c:25-26) reports more than 250 arrests of Syrians since December 1991. Other human rights groups have reported 1,500 detained for questioning between January and mid-July, most for short periods; the detainees have included suspected members of banned political parties and human rights advocates.

wife and 23-month-old daughter were initially detained as hostages to induce him to give himself up for questioning. And Samir Nu'aysa was apparently arrested and imprisoned because of the activities of his brother and his failure to report them.

There have been other recent arrests of engineers and physicians. An engineer, Munzir Jum'a, and physicians Muhammad Ghanim and 'Abd al-Aziz al-Khayyir have been detained without charge since February 1992 for suspected membership in the prohibited Party for Communist Action. According to our information, they were held incommunicado following their arrests and later transferred to Saidnaya Prison, where they are awaiting trials by state security courts. (In the case of al-Khayyir, there are unconfirmed reports that he may have already been sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment by a state security court.)

At the end of August 1992 the government reportedly began state security proceedings against some 600 political detainees, most of whom had been held without charge for between 5 and 12 years. Groups of eight to ten detainees were reportedly brought before state security courts every few days and charged with belonging to banned political parties and opposing or obstructing the goals of the Ba'ath revolution. None of the verdicts was subject to appeal. Lawyers enlisted to defend the prisoners have found that the trials violate basic standards of due process (Collello, 1988:280; Middle East Watch, 1992c:35-39).⁷

Among the 600 prisoners facing state security trials are believed to be a number of cases which would fall under CHR's mandate. As noted above, physician 'Abd al-Aziz al-Khayyir may have been tried and sentenced. In addition, other scientific colleagues are also reported to be facing trial for suspected involvement in the Party for Communist Action or the Communist Party Political Bureau, including physicians Muhammad Ghanim and Ahmad Faiz al-Fawwaz; pharmacist Nicola al-Zahr; engineers Fateh Jamous, Munzir Jum'a, Adnan Abu Janab; and geologist Nihad Nihhas. In addition, engineers Salim Khairbek and 'Abd al-Karim Darwish are reported to be facing trial for opposition political activities.

Of the cases listed above, the government was reportedly prepared to release Adnan Abu Janab, Salim Khairbek, and Nicola al-Zahr in the 1991 amnesties but the three refused to sign statements that they would renounce political activities and party affiliations and so were kept in detention. For insisting on their right to political expression, they now face prison sen-

⁷ The main concerns of the court were violations of the State of Emergency, in particular, violations of Decree Law No. 6, which asserts that "actions held to be incompatible with the implementation of the socialist order," whether demonstrations or assemblies or "any means of expression or publication," are punished as a criminal offense.

tences over and above the many years they have already spent in detention. (See Appendices B and C for details of the above cases.)

ILL-TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

The Syrian Constitution (Article 28:3) prohibits “physical or moral torture” or “humiliating treatment.” So too does the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 7), which Syria ratified. But it is well documented that torture is regularly used in political cases during interrogation and, in many instances, has led to permanent injury. According to the U.S. Department of State (1992:1605), there were “numerous credible reports of widespread and systematic torture, primarily during arrest and interrogation in political or security-related cases, and often in specially equipped torture chambers.” Amnesty International (1987) has identified 35 different types of torture used on political prisoners in Syria.⁸ Individuals whose cases CHR has undertaken have been among those tortured. Ghassan Qassis, for example, a lecturer in civil engineering at the University of Damascus “was reportedly shot in the hands at the time of his arrest in September 1987 and allegedly tortured shortly afterwards by being suspended from a ceiling by his wrists for prolonged periods, causing some paralysis.” He was reportedly arrested both for human rights activities and suspected involvement in a prohibited political party. Arrested along with him was Nizar Maradni, an assistant professor at the University of Damascus, who was reportedly “suspended from a ceiling by his wrists and later dropped to the floor, fracturing his pelvis” (Amnesty International, 1992:21).

The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture in Toronto reports that Syrian torture survivors treated by the Centre have been in “consistently serious condition and have required extensive treatment.”⁹ In 1992, the Canadian Centre treated nine Syrian victims of torture, including one engineer and one dentist. The victims had been exposed to “systemized beatings, electric shocks, prolonged imprisonment and severe deprivation. In one instance, a man was put on a wheel which was then rotated.” Another victim “sustained scarring all over his body.” The incidents took place between 1979 and 1990.

The CHR was able to take testimony from a scientific colleague who was tortured while in detention a few years ago for suspected involvement in a banned political party. To protect him and his family, neither his name

⁸ Amnesty International’s latest report on Syria (1992:31) emphasizes: “The systematic use of arbitrary arrest and incommunicado detention have provided the context for torture to be a routine and widespread practice in Syrian prisons and detention centres.”

⁹ Joan Simalchik, executive director, Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, interview held by telephone, Toronto, Canada, November 18, 1992.

nor profession will be revealed. Immediately following his arrest, he was taken to an interrogation center where he was blindfolded, told to undress, and then "beaten with cable wire while tied down on two pieces of wood shaped like a cross." He was also subjected to electric shocks and made to stick his head and one of his legs in a tire so that his body was contorted while the tire was turned. With wounds still open and bleeding, he was placed in a small, dark and dirty cell and remained in solitary confinement for more than 100 days.

Engineers and health professionals have also died in detention, according to reputable human rights sources. Dr. 'Umar al-Shishhakli, president of the Syrian Ophthalmological Society and officer of the Hama Medical Association, was reportedly tortured and executed by security forces in late 1980 or early 1981. Eight or more other doctors were reportedly killed by security forces or disappeared in Hama at that time. In a more recently reported case a civil engineer, Munir Fransis, died on or about April 14, 1990, of internal bleeding following severe beatings while in detention. He had been arrested after antigovernment slogans were written on walls in Yabrud, north of Damascus. One of the slogans reportedly said, "Today Ceausescu Romania, tomorrow Ceausescu Syria." A health professional who saw Munir Fransis at Muwassat Hospital prior to his death said: "His legs were black, his back looked like a map, and his face and head were swollen . . . The flesh on his feet was ripped off." When a doctor refused to sign a certificate that Fransis had died of natural causes, the doctor was reportedly arrested but then subsequently released (Amnesty International, 1992:31-33; Middle East Watch, 1990:21; 1992c:28; CHR sources).

Engineers and health professionals are reported to have also "disappeared" while in detention (see Appendix D). It is not known, for example, whether Moudar al-Jundi, a 34-year-old engineer from Tartus, is still alive. He was arrested in 1987 for suspected involvement in a banned political party.

According to CHR sources and others (see U.S. Department of State, 1992:1605), most political detainees do not receive proper medical attention. Many fall ill in prison, particularly those held for lengthy periods in substandard conditions. Prisons and detention centers are often crowded and unsanitary, with poor ventilation. Prisoners have staged hunger strikes to protest the neglect of health and hygiene in the cells and the withholding of medicines.

One well-known example of neglect in prison is the case of Dr. Nour al-Din al-Atassi, a surgeon and the former president of Syria, who was held in detention without charge or trial for more than 22 years. Dr. al-Atassi was among a group of former government officials arrested in November 1970 immediately following the coup that brought President Assad to power. Members of the group were accused of refusing to cooperate with the new

government. In April 1992 Dr. al-Atassi reportedly suffered a heart attack in al-Mezze Military Prison and was said to be in critical condition. In May 1992 the CHR sent an appeal to President Assad in his behalf and urged that he be given proper medical attention. Reports had indicated that Dr. al-Atassi, who suffered from diabetes and hypertension, was in poor health due to inadequate medical care during his lengthy detention. While being treated at Tishrin Military Hospital in Damascus, it was discovered that he had developed a malignancy during his detention. According to CHR sources, Syrian military authorities had known Dr. al-Atassi had cancer for at least seven months before they treated it or informed him about it. By that time, the cancer had spread to his liver and bones. Dr. al-Atassi was released from detention on August 28; in mid-November he flew to Paris, where he died at the American Hospital on December 3 of cancer of the esophagus.

The CHR has learned that at different public and military hospitals, such as Muwassat Hospital and Tishrin Military Hospital, two or three rooms are set aside for detainees and prisoners who have been badly tortured or are seriously ill. Doctors at these hospitals are instructed by security agents to treat victims of torture but to “ask no questions.” If they refuse, they can be punished with one or two weeks in detention.

Agents of Political Security (Amn al-Siyassi) or Military Intelligence (Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya) are said often to make arrests by arriving at an office and asking the person to come with them for “a cup of coffee” for “five minutes,” after which the detainee is taken to an interrogation center. Many are then tortured and held incommunicado for months—sometimes even years—without their families being informed of the reasons for their arrest or the place of their detention. One well-known professor of engineering from the University of Damascus, Muhammad Karamee Baddura, was reported to have been held in a military interrogation center from 1980 to 1990 without any contact with his family. No one, in fact, is said to have known anything about him for those 10 years. Security forces reportedly have even arrested and held family members incommunicado after they persistently sought information about their relatives.

After interrogation, prisoners are generally transferred to military or civil prisons, although some have been kept for years in interrogation centers. Prisoners generally fare better in civil prisons than in military prisons. In civil prisons, most detainees are allowed visits from their families, although visitation rights are often arbitrarily granted and prisoners are physically separated from their visitors by wire mesh or bars. Most political prisoners are held in “windowless underground cells, or in giant communal cell blocks with open-mesh roofs.” Those in interrogation centers are held “three to six feet below ground level” (Middle East Watch, 1992c:1, 11). No political detainees are allowed to receive mail. As noted above, to gain their release political prisoners have to agree in writing to certain condi-

tions—i.e., to cease all political activity, to openly declare support for the Assad regime, and to report anything that might threaten the security of the state. According to CHR sources, security agents explain this latter condition to mean violence against the state. But at the same time, prisoners suspected of involvement with banned political parties are asked orally if they will inform on anyone who asks them to join or become politically active in a particular party. They also must sign statements that they will no longer continue their membership or activities in particular political parties even if they never admitted having been a member of the party.

Some prisoners, according to Amnesty International (1992:27-30), are held beyond the length of their sentences. In the case of detainees who have not been sentenced, they are generally not told that they will be freed until the actual day of their release. Former prisoners have told CHR that rather than return home directly, they have made a point of telephoning their relatives first in order to prepare them and help them cope with “the shock” of their release.

An Eyewitness Account

The CHR recently received testimony from an eyewitness who provided the details of a case of an engineer detained without charge or trial for more than 10 years. As a protective measure, the eyewitness will remain unnamed and we refer to the engineer as “Abdul Raouf.”

Prior to the arrest of Abdul Raouf, he had been a successful engineer and an active member of the Damascus branch of the Engineers’ Association. In late 1979 the branch set up a committee to take up the cases of persons arbitrarily arrested and detained and to appeal to the Syrian authorities for their release. To protect its members, the committee was composed of different engineers at different times. Abdul Raouf played an active role and raised with the Syrian authorities the cases of individual political detainees. He urged the authorities to abide by Syrian law and to charge or try persons accused of offenses or to release them. According to Abdul Raouf, the committee was sometimes successful in securing the release of political detainees.

Abdul Raouf also was active in the efforts of the Engineers’ Association to press for human rights reform in Syria. He was present on April 4, 1980, when the government sent a group of military engineers to the Engineers’ Association to try to secure a repudiation of its position on human rights (see below), and he was one of the engineers who resisted the government initiative.

As a battle of wills developed between the government and the Engineers’ Association and the government threatened the association with dis-

solution, a group of engineers on April 8 quickly went over the association's finances. The association operated like a credit union—all of the members paid a certain percentage of their salaries into the association and in return held shares in it. Fearing that the government would confiscate the association's money, they made an effort to ensure that the members were returned their shares.

Following the dissolution of the Engineers' Association on April 9, the government detained hundreds of engineers and health professionals throughout the country. According to Abdul Raouf, most were abducted rather than formally arrested. In Damascus, engineers and lawyers whom Abdul Raouf knew were taken away by two security officers accompanied by four men with machine guns. Neither they nor their families were informed of the reason for their "arrest." Sometimes, according to Abdul Raouf, security officers used ploys to enter homes. They would identify themselves as "repairmen" coming to fix something broken in the house. Sometimes they would tell friends or family members of the prospective detainee that the individual should report to security for questioning and would give assurances that the person would be promptly released. Once in detention, however, the engineers were kept for years without the opportunity to appeal or challenge the lawfulness of their detention in court.

Unlike most of the other engineers and scientists arrested, Abdul Raouf was not subjected to torture or mistreatment. He later learned that this was on the direct orders of President Assad, who had requested good treatment for 21 engineers and lawyers from Damascus and Aleppo, known as "the association group." The orders for good treatment were contained in a letter that Abdul Raouf later saw. This letter appears to demonstrate the president's awareness that torture and ill-treatment are meted out to most political prisoners as a matter of course unless he intervenes.

During the interrogation of the engineers in the association group, they were asked about their activities in the Engineers' Association and also about the Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt. Abdul Raouf and the others insisted that their activities in the association accorded with Syrian law. Abdul Raouf states that they were able to refute allegations against them, and that the Syrian government had no evidence of any wrongdoing on their part or even of any statements made by them that could be construed as critical of the government.

At first, the 21 were assured that they would be promptly released, but an assassination attempt on President Assad's life in June 1980 changed the situation. The assassination attempt, by members of the Presidential Guard, was blamed by the President on the Moslem Brotherhood, but government retaliation was felt everywhere. The 21 engineers and lawyers were kept in detention, most of them for nearly 12 years. Two were released early—one lawyer almost immediately and one engineer in 1983. Another engineer

who had terminal stomach cancer, Abdul Majid Abu Shallah, was released on April 15, 1989; he died 4 months later. The rest remained in detention until December 14, 1991, when all but one were released; one engineer, Salim Khairbek, was not released because he refused to sign a statement saying that he would not participate in political activities. (As above noted, Khairbek is now facing trial in a state security court following this refusal.) Those released also had to promise that they would provide information to the security forces about anyone who planned to destroy public property or threaten the security of the state.

During their incarceration, members of the association group at times went on hunger strikes to protest their continued detention. In mid-1984, group members staged a hunger strike to protest the conditions in Al-Qala' Civil Prison. One of the engineers in the group, Ghassan Najjar, did not eat for more than 58 days. When his blood pressure dropped dangerously low, he was rushed to a hospital, where he remained for several months. He developed a serious back condition and heart problems and had to be hospitalized many times prior to his release in December 1991.

The members of the association group were well aware of their "privileged" position in not being tortured because they were not isolated from other prisoners who were tortured. Abdul Raouf estimates that more than 90 percent of those detained on political grounds were tortured; they included engineers, health professionals, and scientists. During the group's initial years in interrogation centers, persons who were tortured were subsequently brought into cells with group members. Some had been severely beaten; others had been subjected to electric shock; one young boy from Aleppo, who was 13 or 14, had his toes chopped off with an axe. The group heard about or saw quite a number of different types of torture inflicted on prisoners in Syrian jails. The group, Abdul Raouf said, would never have believed that such things happened in their country had they been told of them before their arrest. They hadn't realized that torture was practiced, let alone that it was inflicted in interrogation centers located off busy streets in the middle of the Syrian capital.

Some of the professionals with whom they came in contact had been imprisoned, like them, for their activities in the engineers', medical, and bar associations. Others had been imprisoned for belonging to banned political parties, in particular, communist, and Nasserite parties. In 1990, one of the detainees saw Samir Haddad, a civil engineer (and CHR case) who had been charged with membership in a communist political group. The soles of Haddad's feet were entirely cut open as a result of torture and skin had to be taken from his legs to be grafted onto his feet.¹⁰ Another engineer

¹⁰ It is reported that Samir Haddad nearly died in detention, having suffered kidney failure. He was subsequently released in the December 1991 amnesty.

arrested with him, Munir Fransis (noted above), died as a result of the torture. The group came to believe that substantial numbers of detainees had died as a result of torture under interrogation or had been killed in detention.

According to Abdul Raouf, hundreds of members of the Moslem Brotherhood who were held at Tadmur Military Prison (also known as Palmyra Prison) were massacred in June 1980 by Syrian defense forces under the command of Rifaat Assad, the president's younger brother, following the assassination attempt on President Assad's life. The association group met a number of detainees who had witnessed the massacre. About 850 prisoners were reported to have been killed.¹¹

Abdul Raouf reported that some of the worst abuses against prisoners were carried out at Tadmur Military Prison. Suspected members of the Moslem Brotherhood were consistently ill-treated. They were regularly beaten, for example, on their way to the exercise yard and baths. From the end of 1979 until the mid-1980s, 150 prisoners (of possibly 8,000 held at that time) are said to have died weekly at Tadmur.¹² The number is reported to have decreased after that time. (Thousands of suspected members of the Moslem Brotherhood were detained in the late 1970s and early 1980s following violent clashes between armed members of the Brotherhood and security forces. Not all of those arrested, however, were necessarily involved in violence; rather, many were under suspicion of belonging to or sympathizing with the organization.)

Some prisoners whom Abdul Raouf met were jailed because they had "withheld information": That is, they had failed to report on or turn in government opponents or members of the Moslem Brotherhood. Other prisoners were held as hostages for family members who could not be found (a common practice in Syria). One prisoner, Abdul Raouf discovered, had been sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment because he had dared to vote "no" in a referendum for the president. High-ranking military personnel and former Ba'ath Party officials were among those imprisoned.

During most of their detention, those in the association group were held in 'Adra Civil Prison near Damascus. During their first year, however, they were moved around to various interrogation centers and then placed in "the

¹¹ Other sources put the total killed in the June massacre at more than 1,000. According to documented reports, about 80 heavily armed special forces entered Tadmur Prison on June 27, opened cell doors, and machine-gunned prisoners; see Collello (1988:269) and Middle East Watch (1990:24,75).

¹² During this period, summary trials were held within Tadmur Military Prison, in which military tribunals ordered the execution of many Moslem Brotherhood members; see Middle East Watch (1992c:22; 1990:90). According to the U.S. Department of State's most recent country report (1993), "it is widely believed that the regime continues to execute detainees held in secret at security facilities such as the one at Tadmur."

Citadel," a former fortress, also known as Al-Qala' Civil Prison. When this prison was closed down in 1984 and made into a tourist attraction, the group was placed in 'Adra.

Unlike most prisoners, those in the association group were allowed regular contact with their families. For most of their years in detention, the group was allowed visits from their families every 2 weeks although only in the first years were their families allowed to sit next to them and touch them. In later years, at 'Adra, this was not allowed; bars separated prisoners from their visiting family members, but the prisoners and their families were sometimes left alone by the guards. Members of the association group also were given access to their own personal physicians, although they were sometimes treated by detained medical doctors, who helped other inmates when they were sick.¹³

Like other political detainees, however, those in the association group were not allowed to receive or send mail, although some letters did get through secretly. (Criminal detainees, by contrast, are reportedly allowed to receive mail in Syrian prisons.) At different times, they would learn that a letter had been received by the prison authorities from a human rights organization, but they could never see the letter. Their clothing was regularly searched for mail. Family members were allowed to bring some books to the association group prisoners—but only books published in Syria. Political detainees were not allowed to receive any foreign literature.

During the time the association group members were in prison, their families made appeals to President Assad for their release. The government-controlled Engineers' Association, however, tried to discourage the families from making these appeals. Officers of the association told the families that, rather than complain about their relatives' detention, they should be grateful that they could visit them every 2 weeks.

After his release from more than a decade in detention, Abdul Raouf received visits from more than a thousand relatives and friends at his home. Little or no social stigma seemed to be attached to his having been a political detainee. Those who visited Abdul Raouf apparently felt free to welcome his release. Like many other recently freed scientists, engineers, and health professionals, however, he is under surveillance and has experienced difficulties in resuming his professional career and life.

¹³ According to Middle East Watch (1992c:15), detained health professionals also were enlisted by prison authorities to treat fellow inmates who had been tortured.

Repression of Professional Associations

In the first section of this report the history of the dissolution of the professional associations was summarized. This section presents a more complete account of these events, which were a turning point in the history of professional organizations in Syria.

The Syrian government has strictly controlled the activities of the Bar Association, the Engineers' Association, the Medical Association, and the Pharmacists' Association for the past 12 years because of their activities in late 1979 and 1980 in behalf of greater human rights and freedoms.

Both the engineers' and bar associations had set up committees in the late 1970s to secure the release of political detainees.¹⁴ The associations also adopted resolutions and undertook negotiations with the government. On February 28, 1980, following the lead of the Bar Association, the Seventh General Assembly of the Engineers' Association (formally, the Order of Syrian Engineers and Architects) adopted a statement that called for an end to the state of emergency, the right to exercise freedom of expression and association, the release of arrested colleagues and all other political prisoners, and an end to the practice of torture. It affirmed that engineers have both the right and duty as "individuals and as a syndicate to express

¹⁴ The CHR does not know whether the medical and pharmacists' associations had established such committees. The Syrian Medical Association did have a human rights committee that undertook meetings and informational activities, especially on December 10, Human Rights Day.

their opinions” and that “constructive criticism that aims to benefit the society and the nation should be encouraged.” It called on the government to abide by its laws and the Constitution.¹⁵

A month later, on March 29, a general assembly meeting adopted a second resolution that reiterated support for the February 28 statement and called on the association’s leadership to continue to discuss these issues with the Syrian authorities. The resolution also said that an extraordinary meeting would be called within the next 3 months to review progress.

When discussions with the Syrian authorities yielded no results and arbitrary arrests continued, the Syrian bar, medical, pharmacists’, and engineers’ associations announced a nationwide strike for March 31. In response, the prime minister, Dr. Abdul Raouf al-Kassem, himself an architectural engineer, promised representatives from the associations that their demands would be met, and the groups called off the national strike. However, because the associations’ leaders were unable to reach everyone involved, the strike did take place, although unofficially and only with limited participation.

Despite the prime minister’s promises, no reforms were undertaken, and the government instead tried to get the associations to repudiate the statements they had adopted. On April 4, 1980, at the beginning of a 5-day meeting of the Damascus branch of the Engineers’ Association, a group of about 220 military engineers arrived en masse and called for the repudiation of the February 28 statement and the adoption of a resolution and telegram expressing support for President Assad. Although the group constituted a majority at the opening meeting, other engineers present prevented a vote from being taken. Subsequently, about 1,000 engineers joined the meeting, and they refused to support the initiatives of the 220. They also opposed an open vote that the 220 had advocated: The 220 had hoped by means of the open vote to intimidate people into voting in support of the government. A heated discussion took place on April 7, but no resolution in support of the government was adopted. To the contrary, it looked as if a statement even stronger than the one of February 28 would be adopted. On April 9, the executive committee received a telegram from the Interior Ministry, signed by the prime minister, saying that the Engineers’ Association had been dissolved.

¹⁵ The CHR received the texts of these resolutions in Arabic; they were translated and are available upon request from the CHR office.

DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATIONS

A Council of Ministers' decree of April 9 disbanded all the professional associations, their national and local leadership, and their general assemblies, alleging that the associations had gone beyond the aims and activities of their professions. Engineers were prevented from entering the Engineers' Association building, and lawyers and physicians were similarly barred from entering their professional headquarters. The government then set up new professional associations and appointed their leadership. The elected president of the Damascus branch of the Engineers' Association, Saeed Daqr, although not arrested, was forced out of the presidency in June 1980. He was replaced by Khaldoun Soufi, who was appointed by the government. Soufi still remains president of this branch. Similarly, the current president of the nationwide Engineers' Association, Ghassan Tayara, was appointed to replace the elected president of that association. In the case of the Syrian Medical Association, the government appointed Mustapha Salakho, a loyal Ba'ath Party member, to replace the elected General Secretary of the association, whom it arrested and detained for a week. (As noted above, he was released following the protests of Arab medical associations meeting in Algiers.)

The government also changed the laws governing professional associations. The new legislation, enacted in 1981, imposed Ba'ath Party control and oversight of the associations. They can only hold congresses, for example, with Ba'ath Party approval and Ba'ath Party representatives present, and they or their members can only participate in conferences outside of Syria with Ba'ath Party approval. Although elections are held, they are no longer free—all association officers must be selected or approved by the party. Moreover, the government retains the right to dissolve the associations if they "deviate" from their objectives. With regard to the Engineers' Association, the statutes and bylaws adopted by its General Assembly are only "considered valid" if "ratified by the concerned authorities."¹⁶ The committees of the association are now appointed, and their members regularly include government employees and security agents. There is no longer a committee in the Engineers' Association that deals with human rights.

When the Arab Federation of Engineers approached the Syrian Engineers' Association during the 1980s about their colleagues in detention, President Tayara, according to NAS sources, discouraged their intervention as interference in Syrian internal affairs and said that those detained should

¹⁶ "General Information on The Order of Syrian Engineers and Architects and on The Order of Syrian Engineers—Damascus," May 5, 1992; provided to CHR by the Order of Syrian Engineers and Architects, Damascus, in June 1992.

be “court-martialed.” In 1987 an assistant professor of engineering at the University of Damascus, Nizar Maradni, together with another engineer, Ghassan Qassis, sent a pamphlet to the Engineers’ Association calling for the restoration of democratic freedoms in Syria. Both were arrested in September 1987, reportedly tortured, and still remain incarcerated (see above).

More recently, when a representative of the New York-based Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (1992a:4) raised the cases of imprisoned lawyers with the Syrian Bar Association, its officials at first denied the existence of the cases, and then stated that “as a matter of principle it does not interfere in political cases.” The committee concluded: “Since 1980 and the dissolution of its Liberties Committee it [the Syrian Bar Association] has not issued a single statement against or defended a single victim of government abuse, nor has it even raised the issue of tens of its members being detained and reportedly tortured” (Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, 1992b:10). In 1989 a human rights committee was reestablished by the Syrian Bar Association, but, according to the lawyers committee, it is inactive (Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, 1992b:7).

HISTORY OF AUTONOMY AND PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

The government’s strict control of the professional associations is a drastic departure from past practice. Although originally created by the government, the associations traditionally enjoyed substantial autonomy. When the Syrian Engineers’ Association was founded in the late 1940s (it was formally established in 1950), Syria still had some semblance of democratic government, and the association developed a tradition of free elections, democratic rule, and relative independence from the government. This remained true even throughout the 1960s, when military coups plagued Syria, and into the 1970s. Although the government (especially the Ba’ath Party) tried to exert control from time to time and put some of its members on association committees, it did not succeed, except in one case when the individual was genuinely popular.

At the time of the dissolution of the Engineers’ Association in April 1980, it had 14,000 to 15,000 members. The headquarters of the association was in Damascus, and it had branches in 13 cities, including Aleppo and Latakyya. The Damascus branch was the largest, with 4,000 members. According to CHR sources, it was a vibrant, active organization that strongly defended its colleagues and also made recommendations to the government on issues of human rights.

The Syrian medical, bar, and pharmacists’ associations also held genuinely free elections, were largely independent of government control, and spoke up for persecuted colleagues.

At the end of 1991 the official Syrian press called for democratization of unions, including professional associations and popular organizations. Subsequent remarks by President Assad also encouraged the belief that there might be some loosening of controls over the professional associations. On March 12, 1992, in his nationwide inaugural address, President Assad affirmed that Syria was moving in the direction of democracy and pointed to the “vocational unions [professional associations] with their own hierarchies which are democratically elected” as evidence of this trend. These associations, he said, participate in the political process: “. . . the physician, the engineer, the lawyer, each within his own unionist organization participates in running the state and the society.” President Assad continued that the associations are represented in the People’s Assembly, are “all based on elections,” and have “contributed to the development of the country” (*Al-Itidal Arabic Newspaper*, 1992; see also Syrian Ministry of Information, 1991:26).

To date, however, liberalization has not taken place. None of the professional associations has held a free election since the 1970s or has been able to express views contrary to government policy. In the 1970s, for example, in addition to calling for human rights and democratic reform, the Engineers’ Association raised objections to a government decree that required all new engineering graduates to work immediately for the government for 5 years. Association members objected to a requirement they felt was patently political in origin, namely to promote greater loyalty to the Assad regime. They argued that new graduates in engineering should have the right to choose between working for the government or continuing on in graduate school or joining the private sector. The government, they pointed out, did not have enough work for new graduates, and many as a result would remain idle for those years. After the association’s dissolution, however, the newly created Engineers’ Association no longer challenged the government on this question. Engineers and health professionals recently released from prison find it difficult to accept government control of their associations. The Engineers’ Association reportedly has been sending its officers to visit newly released engineers, particularly those who had been active in the association prior to their arrest, presumably to threaten or co-opt them. But not all released engineers have agreed to see them. A number have refused on the grounds that the new leadership is not legitimate and does not rightfully represent the Engineers’ Association.

The CHR does not know whether recently released engineers and health professionals have been barred from rejoining their professional associations. The bylaws of the Engineers’ Association provide that members can be suspended “in the event of serious violations of the laws, and noncompliance with the statute.” It is reported that some lawyers who were imprisoned on political grounds have been denied the right to rejoin the Bar

Association. Exclusion from professional associations can prove extremely detrimental to lawyers, health professionals, and engineers because they are required to belong to these associations in order to practice their professions.

In June 1992 the U.S. government suspended certain of Syria's trade benefits after a lengthy review in which it found that Syria fails to respect the right to freedom of association. According to U.S. law, eligibility in the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)—under which certain products from developing countries can enter the U.S. market duty-free—can be suspended or withdrawn if a foreign government does not observe internationally recognized worker rights, such as the right of association. In the case of Syria, the AFL-CIO sent a petition to the U.S. government in 1988 asking for a review of worker rights in Syria. The interagency body conducting the review found that Syria had not fulfilled two conditions specified under the law: respect for the right of association and prohibition against forced labor (in prison).¹⁷

The International Labor Organization (ILO) has similarly found that Syrian legislative decrees restrict “the free administration and independence of the management of trade unions” and has requested the government “to remove excessive restrictions on the right of workers’ organizations to elect their representatives freely and to organize their administration and activities without interference by the public authorities, including with regard to the exercise of the right to strike” (International Labor Organization, 1991, 1992). The same restrictions can be said to apply to Syria’s professional associations.

¹⁷ The denial of GSP benefits reportedly will have limited economic impact because Syria does not export substantial amounts to the United States under this program and because it continues to enjoy most-favored-nation trade status; see Human Rights Watch (1992c:343).

Conclusions

Syria should make public the names of political prisoners and detainees it has released and provide information on those still held in detention and imprisonment.

The Syrian government has released large numbers of political prisoners—more than 3,500 in 1991 and 1992. This is a praiseworthy step, but its effect is seriously diminished by Syria's stubborn refusal to identify the names of those released. On many occasions, the CHR has pointed out to Syrian officials that it is in their government's interest to make known the names of those released. Because the government has not done so, we can only conclude that it fears that making these names public will call attention to the fact that it arrested and detained so many persons for very long periods of time, often without charge. Also behind the Syrian policy of secrecy may be the desire to make it more difficult to know the identity of those still held for political reasons.

If the Syrian government continues to withhold the names of former detainees who have been released, it cannot expect to get the credit it deserves for the releases. In their efforts to assure the release of all political detainees, human rights organizations will have no choice but to continue to circulate the full list of those known to have been incarcerated, including persons who may have been freed but whose freedom has not been acknowledged or verified. The CHR therefore reiterates its appeal to the Syrian government to publish immediately the names of all individuals released in recent amnesties and to provide information on those still held in detention and imprisonment.

Scientists, engineers, and health professionals, released from detention, should be allowed to resume their careers and faculty positions.

Although recent releases include at least 49 CHR cases, the committee notes that the individuals had been held without charge or trial on political grounds for extremely lengthy periods of time. The majority may have been tortured or otherwise mistreated. Moreover, those released who were university faculty members are reportedly not being allowed to resume their university careers, presumably because of their political beliefs and associations. The CHR urges the Syrian authorities to ensure that released faculty members be returned to university positions, that any necessary training to bring them up to date in their fields be provided, and that the stigma of imprisonment be removed from their professional lives. Engineers who were former government employees have been reinstated to their positions. Special consideration should also be given to educators.

Syria should live up to its commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which it ratified.

The continued detention or imprisonment on political grounds of substantial numbers of scientists, engineers, and health professionals and the continuing arrests of other scientific colleagues are of great concern to the CHR. In addition to violating basic standards of human rights, their incarceration undermines Syria's quest for economic development and technological progress. Scientists and others held for the nonviolent expression of their political beliefs should be released immediately and unconditionally and reintegrated into Syrian life. Scientists who have been formally charged should receive prompt, fair, and public trials. The trials held in 1992 under the state security court system reportedly violated the most elementary standards of due process. Moreover, most of those charged are being held for the expression of political views, belonging to political parties, advocating human rights reform, and establishing human rights organizations—activities that are not criminal offenses under international human rights law. In 1979, Syria ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and in so doing pledged to respect these and other fundamental human rights. It should live up to this pledge.

The Syrian government should heed the requests of the former engineers', medical, bar, and pharmacists' associations to end the long-standing state of emergency.

Syria's state of emergency, in force since 1963, is the reason given for the suspension of so many basic human rights in Syria. It is regularly used

to justify the arrest and preventive detention of large numbers of people without due process. Syrian officials have rationalized its continuation by citing the state of war with Israel and the threat of terrorism, but those who are detained for political reasons are clearly people who advocate internal reform in Syria. The lifting of the state of emergency was requested by Syria's professional associations a decade ago. The Syrian government should heed this request, in the interest of modernizing and democratizing its own society and bringing its human rights practices into line with the international human rights obligations it has legally assumed.

There should be an immediate halt to torture and inhumane treatment of prisoners and detainees in Syria in accordance with Syrian and international law.

The inhumane treatment to which so many detainees and prisoners are subjected is another feature of Syria's poor international human rights record. The CHR urges a complete and immediate cessation of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners in compliance with Syria's constitution, which deems torture a criminal offense and calls for punishment of those who perpetrate it. That this can be done expeditiously is illustrated by the fact that, on the special instruction of President Assad, one group of 21 engineers and lawyers detained in 1980 ("the association group") were not subjected to torture. This instruction should be extended to all prisoners and detainees in Syria. Doing so would accord with Syria's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Prisoners also should be assured regular access to family members, lawyers, and adequate medical care. In addition, all cases of torture, death or disappearance in detention, and summary execution should be impartially investigated, those responsible prosecuted, and a full accounting given of all those who died in custody and who disappeared. In particular, the CHR would like information about the cases of scientists who are reported to have died or disappeared in detention or to have been killed or executed (see Appendix D). For those who have been subjected to torture and mistreatment, medical attention and compensation should be provided.

The freedoms enjoyed by the former professional organizations in Syria should be restored.

Professional associations in Syria have had a long history of free elections, democratic rule, and relative autonomy from government. But today, the engineers', medical, bar, and pharmacists' associations remain under strict government control. This makes it impossible for them to act as true professional organizations and undercuts efforts at scientific inquiry, inde-

pendent research, and development. It also seriously impedes increased contacts with scientists in the United States and other democratic nations. Restoration of the freedoms earlier enjoyed by the professional associations could bring Syria substantial international scientific benefits. For genuine liberalization to take place, the laws introduced in 1980 and 1981 dissolving the associations and establishing Ba'ath Party control over them will have to be repealed. The independence of the associations will have to be affirmed and government dissolution of them prohibited. Free elections will have to be held by secret ballot, with the candidates chosen by democratic procedure. In the interim, one positive step would be to reinstate the officers of the dissolved associations to their former positions.

The Syrian government should allow human rights missions by the NAS Committee on Human Rights and other human rights organizations.

Over the past year the Syrian government has shown somewhat greater openness to contacts with human rights organizations. We regret, however, that in the fall of 1992, the Syrian government refused a request for a visit by delegates from the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Human Rights who wished to inquire about the status of scientific colleagues who have been imprisoned. It is to be hoped that the Syrian government will bring its policies into line with international practice and allow a visit by the CHR and other human rights organizations. The CHR is confident that U.S. scientists and scientific organizations would be willing to explore how they could work together with their colleagues in Syria if the Syrian government were to commit itself to meaningful human rights improvements and reform.

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Appendix A

The Committee on Human Rights

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is a private, self-perpetuating society of distinguished scholars in scientific and engineering research, dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare. The Academy's charter was approved by the U.S. Congress and signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. Election to membership in the Academy is an honor that comes to less than one-half of 1 percent of American scientists. The current membership of the NAS is more than 1,651. The Academy also elects scientists who are not U.S. citizens as foreign associates; there are currently approximately 289 foreign associates.

The NAS Committee on Human Rights was created in 1976 in response to increased concern by Academy members over repression of scientists in many areas of the world. The committee is composed of 14 members, 10 from the NAS, 2 from the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), and 2 from the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

The committee's inquiries and appeals are based on principles set forth in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a declaration that has been adopted by the member states of the United Nations. It proclaims certain common standards of human rights for all peoples—standards that include the right to life, liberty, and security of person; to freedom from torture and arbitrary detention; to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal; and to freedom of speech, conscience, and religion. Although the committee's concern is for all victims of abuses of human rights, the focus of its work is on scientists, engineers, and health

professionals who are believed to be victims of severe repression. The committee only undertakes cases of colleagues who, to the best of its knowledge, have not used or advocated violence.

The committee undertakes cases of scientific colleagues anywhere in the world. In the past it has worked on cases in several dozen countries, including Argentina, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Kenya, Malaysia, Morocco, the Philippines, Somalia, South Africa, the former Soviet Union, Sudan, Syria, Vietnam, and Zaire. Close to 500 of the more than 790 cases formally undertaken by the committee have been resolved.

The work of the Committee on Human Rights is generally carried out through private inquiries from the committee and individual appeals from members of the NAS, NAE, IOM, and foreign associates who act as committee correspondents. The total number of committee correspondents is more than 1,400. Over the years, the committee's private approaches have often been effective. Occasionally, however, the committee decides that a public statement should be made in behalf of an individual or that a delegation should be sent to a country for more information and to express more directly the committee's concerns. It has undertaken missions of inquiry to Argentina and Uruguay in 1978, to Chile in 1985, to Somalia in 1987, and to Guatemala in 1992.

Appendix B Scientists, Engineers, and Health Professionals Detained Without Charge or Trial or Imprisoned

This appendix lists detained or imprisoned colleagues in Syria with confirmed information on their cases and the sources of that information. We believe, but have not always been able to verify, that all the individuals on this list are prisoners of conscience. Some of these people are also listed in Appendix D.

The abbreviations used for sources follow: AAAS, American Association for the Advancement of Science; AI, Amnesty International; AIUA, Amnesty International Urgent Action; AIUSA, Amnesty International USA; CDF, the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria; MESA, Middle East Studies Association; MEW, Middle East Watch; NAS, National Academy of Sciences; PHR, Physicians for Human Rights.

ENGINEERS (76)

'ADNAWI AL-'ADAWI: engineer; arrested in 1981 in Homs (*AI Index 4/90*)

AHMAD AHA'BAN: 62-year-old engineer; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike (*AIUSA brochure 1983*)

IBRAHIM AKHRAS: 38-year-old engineer; arrested in June 1980 in Idlib by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence); married (*AI Index 8/83; AI Index 4/90*)

MUHAMMAD HASSAN 'ALWANI: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Deir al-Zor following 1-day national strike (*AI Index 8/83*)

KHALID 'ANTAR: 49-year-old mechanical engineer; arrested in December 1980 in Latakiyya by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence); married with two children (*AI Index 8/83*; *AI Index 4/90*; AIUSA brochure 1983)

DIHAM ATASSI: 38-year-old engineer; arrested in September 1980 in Homs by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) (*AI Index 8/83*; *AI Index 4/90*)

'AWNA 'AWNA: engineer; arrested in 1981 in Banias (*AI Index 4/90*; *AI Index 5/21/90*)

BADR 'AWNI: 44-year-old engineer; arrested in May 1980 in Aleppo by Amn al-Dawla (State Security); married; may have been released (*AI Index 8/83*; *AI Index 4/90*; MEW "Throwing Away the Key," 11/92; NAS)

'ADNAN 'AYRUT: engineer; arrested in 1981 in Banias (*AI Index 4/90*)

MOUNIR CHA'BOU: engineer; reportedly arrested on October 17, 1987, in Latakiyya when security forces could not find his brother, Bahjat Cha'bou (CDF Annual Review 1990-1)

RADWAN DAHHAN: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike (*AI Index 8/83*)

AHMAD SHAFIQ DALI: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike (*AI Index 8/83*; *AI Index 4/90*)

JAMAL DALI: 34-year-old engineer; arrested in June 1980 in Latakiyya by Al-Amn al-'Askari (Military Security) (*AI Index 8/83*; *AI Index 4/90*)

RIAD DALI: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike (*AI Index 8/83*; *AI Index 4/90*)

IMAD 'ABD AL-SHAIKH DIB: 36-year-old engineer; arrested in August 1980 by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) (*AI Index 8/83*; *AI Index 4/90*)

HASAN JAMAL AL-DIN: 41-year-old civil engineer; arrested in November 1980 in Homs by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) (*AI Index 8/83*; *AI Index 4/90*)

TALAL DUFI: 39-year-old agricultural engineer; arrested in January 1980 in Latakiyya; married with one child (AIUSA brochure 1983)

AHMAD FARIS: 42-year-old engineer; arrested on December 11, 1980, in

Latakiyya by Al-Amn al-'Askari (Military Security); married with two children (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

KHALID FARIS: 49-year-old agricultural engineer; arrested on November 12, 1980, in Latakiyya by Amn al-Dawla (State Security); married with two children (AIUSA brochure 1983; AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

BADR AL-DIN FATAL: 47-year-old engineer; arrested in September 1986 in Aleppo for suspected membership in prohibited Nasserist Popular Organization; reportedly held in Aleppo Central Prison (*Index on Censorship* 1/87; AI 7/24/89; CDF Engineers List 1992)

'**ALI GHABSHA:** 50-year-old engineer; arrested in 1980 in Idlib for suspected membership in prohibited Nasserist Popular Organization; detained in Political Security Center in Idlib (*Index on Censorship* 1/87; AI 7/24/89; CDF Engineers List 1992)

MUHAMMAD ALI HABIB: 39-year-old lecturer in engineering and economics at University of Latakiyya; arrested in December 1991 by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) and sentenced in March 1992 to 9 years' imprisonment with hard labor for belonging to CDF and for issuing a leaflet, together with other human rights activists, in defense of human rights; reportedly mistreated in detention; held in Saidnaya Prison (AI UA 1/9/92 & 1/29/92; AI *Medical Index* 6/15/92; MEW "Syria: Human Rights Workers on Trial," 3/9/92; MESA 4/14/92; NAS; CDF Academics List 1992)

MAZYAD HADDAD: 40-year-old doctor of civil engineering from Der'a; arrested in 1983 in Damascus by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) for suspected leadership role in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party; reportedly tortured; held in Saidnaya Prison; unmarried (CDF Engineers List 1992; NAS)

'**UBAID MUSTAFA AL-HANI:** engineer; arrested in 1980 in Al-Raqqa following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

SALAH BIN 'ALI AL-IBRAHIM: electrical engineer; arrested in August 1980 in Idlib by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence); married with one son (AIUSA brochure 1983; AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

YUSUF MUHAMMAD SA'ID JABR: engineer; arrested in August 1980 in Idlib (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

FATEH JAMOUS: 44-year-old mechanical engineer from Bisnada; reportedly arrested in March 1982 for suspected affiliation with a banned communist political party; held in Saidnaya Prison; married with two children (MEW "Throwing Away the Key," 11/92; CDF Engineers List 1992; NAS)

ADNAN ABU JANAB: 40-year-old civil engineer from Homs; reportedly arrested on October 16, 1980, for suspected involvement in prohibited Communist Party Political Bureau; held in 'Adra Civil Prison; unmarried (NAS; CDF Engineers List 1992)

'ADNAN AL-JASSIM: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

ALI JOUBAILI: 42-year-old geophysical engineer from Latakyya; arrested in 1982 in Damascus by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) for suspected membership in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party; reportedly tortured; detained in Saidnaya Prison; married with two children (CDF Engineers List 1992; NAS)

'ABD ALLAH AHMAD JUD'A (JAD'A): engineer; arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

MUNZIR JUM'A: 32-year-old civil engineer from Homs; reportedly arrested in February 1992 by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) for membership in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held incommunicado prior to transfer to Saidnaya Prison; may be facing trial by state security court (AI UA 5/7/92, 2/24/92; CDF 4/29/92; AI UA 6/15/92; MEW "Throwing Away the Key," 11/92)

SALIM KHAIRBEK: 44-year-old mechanical engineer; arrested in June 1980 in Damascus; worked for Syrian airline; member of Damascus Engineers' Association; refused to sign a statement renouncing political activities in December 1991 and therefore was not released; held in 'Adra Civil Prison; unmarried (AI "Syria: Indefinite Political Imprisonment," 7/92; NAS)

'ABD AL-GHANI KHARRAT: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

HAITHAM AL-KHATIB: engineer; arrested on April 1, 1981 in Idlib (AI *Index* 4/90)

MUHAMMAD AL-KHATIB: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

'ABD AL-QADIR KOUJOU: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

FADIL MA'AKADEH: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

'ABD AL-KARIM MAHSHIYYAH: civil engineer; arrested in November 1980 in Latakyya by Al-Amn al-'Askari (Military Security); married with one son (AIUSA brochure 1983; AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

TALAL MAHSHIYYAH: engineer; arrested in 1981 in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

BASSAM MALI: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

NIZAR MARADNI: 36-year-old assistant professor, Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Damascus; arrested on September 19, 1987, reportedly after sending a pamphlet to Engineers' Association advocating restoration of democratic freedoms in Syria; also suspected of involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly tortured; held in Fara' Falastin detention center or in Tadmur Military Prison; married with two children; wife also detained (MESA 12/19/90; AI UA 10/25/91; CDF Engineers List 1992; AI "Syria: Indefinite Political Imprisonment," 7/92)

MUNIF MULHIM: 41-year-old mechanical engineer; arrested in August 1981 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; held in Saidnaya Prison; subjected to severe mistreatment; reportedly in need of medical care for possible tumor; two brothers and their wives arrested in August 1987; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International (AI UA 10/25/91; MEW "Human Rights in Syria," 1990; AI "Syria: Indefinite Political Imprisonment," 7/92)

NABIL MOULHEM: 30-year-old civil engineer; reportedly arrested on August 15, 1987, for suspected membership in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison (NAS; CDF Engineers List 1992)

'ABD AL-HALIM 'ABD AL-MUN'IM: 51-year-old engineer; arrested in June 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI 4/90)

'UMAR MUSA: 33-year-old engineer; arrested in 1981 in Idlib following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 4/90)

FATIH NAJJAR: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

NADIR QARQANAWI: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

ADIB QARTAWI: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

GHASSAN QASSIS (or KASSIS): 33-year-old lecturer from Yabrud, Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Damascus; arrested on September 2 or 9, 1987, by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly shot at time of arrest and tortured; in need of medical attention; reportedly held in

Saidnaya Prison; unmarried (MESA 6/10/91; AI UA 10/25/91; CDF 5/1/91; AI "Syria: Indefinite Political Imprisonment," 7/92; MEW "Throwing Away the Key," 11/92; CDF Engineers List 1992)

MU'TAZ QATLABI: engineer; arrested in 1982 by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) for suspected membership in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party; held in Saidnaya Prison; may have been released (NAS; MEW "Throwing Away the Key," 11/92)

ABD AL-MAJID QATTANI: engineer; arrested in 1981 in Idlib (AI *Index* 4/90)

TALAL RA'I: engineer; arrested in 1981 in Latakyya (AI *Index* 4/90)

MUHAMMAD SAYYID RASSAS: 40-year-old engineer; arrested in November 1980 in Latakyya by Al-Amn al-'Askari (Military Security) reportedly for suspected membership in prohibited Communist Party Political Bureau; may have been released (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

'USAMA SA'DUN: engineer; arrested in August 1980 in Aleppo (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

BASSAM SAFUR: 33-year-old civil engineer; arrested in October 1980 in Homs by Amn al-Siyassi (Political Security) (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

MUSTAPHA SAHYUNI: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Banias following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

QASSIM AL-SA'ID: engineer; arrested in 1981 in Homs (AI *Index* 4/90)

FARID BIN 'ADNAN ABU-SALID: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

RASUL SARRAJ: 38-year-old engineer; arrested in September 1980 in Homs by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

SHAKIR BIN 'UMR SARWANI: engineer; arrested in June 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

MUHAMMAD 'ALI SATIF: engineer; arrested April 1, 1981, in Idlib (AI *Index* 4/90)

AHMAD SHA'BAN: 62 year-old engineer; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo; married with two children (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 4/90)

BASSAM NAJM AL-DIN SIBA'I: 43-year-old engineer; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 8/83; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

MUHAMMAD ZAHY SUFI: 46-year-old civil engineer; arrested in De-

ember 1980 in Latakiyya by Al-Amn al-'Askari (Military Security) (*AI Index 8/83; AI Index 4/90*)

TALAL SUFI: 38-year-old agricultural engineer; arrested January 19, 1981, in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike; married with one child (*AI Index 8/83; AI Index 4/90*)

SHAWKI AL-TABA: agricultural engineer; arrested in June 1980 in Homs (*AI Index 8/83; AI 4/90*)

'ABD AL-LATIF TALIB: engineer; arrested in December 1980 in Latakiyya (*AI Index 8/83; AI Index 4/90*)

'ISSAM AL-TARABULSI: engineer; arrested in 1981 in Latakiyya (*AI Index 4/90*)

USAMA AL-TARABULSI: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike (*AI Index 8/83; AI Index 4/90*)

BASHSHAR TARAZI: 43-year-old civil engineer; arrested in May 1980 in Homs by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) following 1-day national strike (*AI Index 8/83; AI Index 4/90*)

HAMID HAMID AL-'UMR: engineer; arrested in 1980 in Al-Hassaka in 1980 following 1-day national strike (*AI Index 8/83; AI Index 4/90*)

SAMI WALID: 36-year-old engineer; arrested in November 1980 in Latakiyya by Al-Amn al-'Askari (Military Security) (*AI Index 8/83; AI Index 4/90*)

HASSAN ZAITOUN: engineer; arrested in June 1980 in Anadin following 1-day national strike (*AI Index 8/83; AI Index 4/90*)

AKRAM ZOUAIER: agronomy engineer from Hama; arrested in 1983 by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) for suspected membership in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party; held in Sainaya Prison; unmarried (*CDF Engineers List 1992; NAS; MEW "Throwing Away the Key," 11/92*)

ZUHAIR ZUHRI: 35-year-old military engineer; arrested on March 10, 1980, in Idlib by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) following 1-day national strike; married (*AI Index 8/83; AI Index 4/90; AIUSA brochure 1983*).

SCIENTISTS (6)

Chemists

HUSSEIN BAKR: 41-year-old professor of organic chemistry, University of Homs or Damascus; arrested in 1982 by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Mili-

tary Intelligence) for alleged membership in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party; reportedly tortured; held in Saidnaya Prison; married with one child (CDF Academics List 1992; NAS)

ABDUL AL-KHADER ISTANBULI: 38-year-old chemistry teacher from Hama; arrested in Aleppo by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) for suspected membership in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party; held in Saidnaya Prison; married with one child (NAS)

Geologist

NIHAD NAHHAS: 35-year-old geologist from Hama; arrested in May 1980 for suspected membership in prohibited Party for Communist Action; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International; held in Saidnaya Prison; reportedly tortured (NAS; AI French Section, July 1992)

Topographer

MUSTAFA KHALIFA: 43-year-old topographer; arrested in January 1982 by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; previously detained in 1979-1980; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International; married with one child (AI UA 10/25/91; CDF Engineers List 1991; AI Newsletter 8/92; NAS)

Economist

MOUNTHER KHADDAM: 43-year-old professor of political economy, Tishrin University, Latakiyya; arrested in 1981 in Latakiyya for alleged membership in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party; detained in al-Mezze Military Prison (MESA 12/19/90; CDF 5/1/91; NAS)

Sociologist

NIZAR BEN ALI NAIF (NAYYUF): 36-year-old sociologist; arrested in January 1992 by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) and sentenced on March 17, 1992, to 10 years' imprisonment and hard labor for belonging to the CDF and issuing a leaflet, together with other human rights activists, in defense of human rights; reportedly tortured under interrogation; held in Saidnaya Prison (AI 3/20/92; AI *Medical Index* 6/15/92; MEW "Syria: Human Rights Workers on Trial," 3/9/92; NAS)

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (55)

ZAHİ 'ABBADI: general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike; may have died in detention (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90; AI 10/91)

MUHAMMAD 'UTHMAN AL-ABRASH: 37-year-old dentist; arrested in 1980 following 1-day national strike; reportedly detained in Tadmur Military Prison (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

MUSTAFA 'ARAQIL: medical doctor; arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike; reportedly detained in Tadmur Military Prison (AI *Index* 4/84; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

'ABD AL-QAHIR AL-ATASSI: general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike; unmarried (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

YASIR 'AWNI 'AWNA: 38-year-old general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Tartus following 1-day national strike; reportedly held in Tadmur Military Prison; married, visited by family on several occasions (AI *Index* 4/84; AI 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

FARHAN AL-AZHARI: 35-year-old veterinary surgeon; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike; unmarried (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

MUHAMMAD BARAD'I: general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Tartus following 1-day national strike; reportedly held in Tadmur Military Prison (AI *Index* 4/84)

MUHAMMAD AS'AD BISATA: health professional; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International; reported missing or may have been released (PHR newsletter summer/fall 1990; AI *Index* 5/21/90; AI 10/91; CDF 12/91)

MUHAMMAD FAIZ BISMAR: gynecologist; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike; may have died in detention (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90; AI 10/91)

'ABD AL-'AZIZ BIN 'ABD AL-QADIR BITAR: 37-year-old veterinary surgeon; arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

'ABD AL-MAJID BIN 'ABD AL-QADIR BITAR: 39-year-old veterinary surgeon; arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

AYMAN DAGHESTANI: radiologist from Homs; arrested in September

1987 for suspected membership in prohibited Party for Communist Action; held in Saidnaya Prison; married with one child (CDF Health Professionals List 1993; NAS)

AHMAD DALATI: ophthalmologist (or studying ophthalmology); arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike; reportedly held in Tadmur Military Prison (AI *Index* 1/89; AI 4/84; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

MUWAFFAQ 'ABD AL-DAYIM: 36-year-old general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 1/89)

'ABD AL-HAMID DIAB: general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

FAWWAZ TAQI AL-DIN: veterinary surgeon; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike; unmarried (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

IBRAHIM FARIS: 42-year-old pediatrician; arrested in 1980 in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike; reportedly detained in Tadmur Military Prison; married with three children (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

AHMAD FAIZ AL-FAWWAZ: 49-year-old medical doctor; arrested on October 6, 1980, in Damascus for membership in prohibited Communist Party Political Bureau and for criticizing government policies; currently detained in 'Adra Civil Prison; reportedly tortured during interrogation; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International; married with children (AI 4/5/89; AI 6/28/90; PHR Newsletter summer/fall 1990; CDF Health Professionals List 1992; NAS)

MUHAMMAD GHANIM: 34-year-old health professional from Latakiyya; arrested in February 1992 by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) for membership in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held incommunicado in Fara' al-Tahqiq al-'Askari in Damascus prior to transfer to Saidnaya Prison; may be facing trial before state security court (CDF 4/29/92; AI UA 2/24/92; AI "Health Care and Human Rights," 4/92; AI UA 6/15/92; MEW "Throwing Away the Key," 11/92)

MUHAMMAD HALIMA: general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Tartus following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/91)

USAMA AL-HASHIMI: dentist; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike; unmarried (AI *Index* 4/84; AI 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/91)

RAFIQ IBRAHIM IBRAHIM: general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

AKRAM SALIM ISHTY: 34-year-old Lebanese physician and lecturer at

American University in Beirut; arrested January 13, 1992, by security forces and taken to Damascus; reportedly arrested to force his brother, member of pro-Iraq wing of Ba'ath Party, to give himself up; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison (AI "Health Care and Human Rights," 10/92; MEW "Throwing Away the Key," 11/92)

ISMAIL ISTANBULI: 35-year-old doctor from Hama; arrested in 1983 by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) for suspected membership in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party; held in Saidnaya Prison (NAS)

JALAL JALAGHI: general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 1/89)

DARWISH JANU: 36-year-old general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Damascus following 1-day national strike; may have died in detention (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90; AI 10/91)

MAHMUD KASSAB: surgeon; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

'ABD AL-AZIZ AL-KHAYYIR: 41-year-old doctor from Latakiyya; arrested in February 1992 by Mukhabarat al-'Askariyya (Military Intelligence) for membership in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held incommunicado prior to transfer to Saidnaya Prison; may have been tried by state security court and sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment; married with one child (CDF 4/29/92; AI UA 2/11/92, 2/24/92; AI "Health Care and Human Rights," 4/92; AI UA 6/15/92; MEW "Throwing Away the Key," 11/92; NAS; CDF Health Professionals List 1992)

HASSAN AL-MUFTI: 37-year-old gynecologist; arrested in 1980 in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike; reportedly detained in Tadmur Military Prison; married with one child (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

QASIM MUSA: 44-year-old ear, nose, and throat specialist; arrested in 1980 in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike; reportedly detained in Tadmur Military Prison; married with three children (AI *Index* 4/84; AI 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

MUNIB ZAHRI AL-NAJJAR: veterinary surgeon; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

KHALED AL-NASSER: 42-year-old kidney specialist; arrested in September 1986 in Aleppo on charges of being General Secretary of "Nasserite organization of Syria"; detained in Aleppo Central Prison; married with three children (NAS; MEW "Throwing Away the Key," 11/92; *Index on Censorship* 1/87; AI 7/20/89; CDF Health Professionals List 1992)

MUHAMMAD NINO: general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Idlib fol-

lowing 1-day national strike; held at Tadmur Military Prison; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International; may have died in detention (AI *Index* 1/89; PHR newsletter summer/fall 1990; AAAS newsletter spring/summer 1990; AI 10/91)

MUHAMMAD MUKHLIS QANNUT: 37-year-old surgeon; arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike; unmarried; may have died in detention (AI 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90; AI 10/91)

AHMAD QARAQUZ: 35-year-old general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike; married; may have been released (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90; AAAS Directory of Persecuted Scientists, Engineers and Health Professionals 5/92)

FAWZI RIDA: pharmacist; member of National Command; arrested in early 1970s with other government officials (MEW "Human Rights in Syria," 1990; NAS)

MUHAMMAD MANSUR AL-RIFA'I: ear, nose, and throat specialist; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike; unmarried (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

MUHAMMAD 'AKIF RUSTUM: 41-year-old pediatrician; arrested in 1980 in Latakyya following 1-day national strike; married with three children; may have died in detention (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90; AI 10/91)

BADR AL-DIN AL-SAFADI: physician; arrested in 1980 in Damascus following 1-day national strike; held in Tadmur Military Prison (AI *Index* 4/84)

HASSAN SA'ID: general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

ALI SAREM: 36-year-old dentist; former Army officer from Deir Mama; arrested by Syrian security agents in Damascus in July 1984 for membership in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly tortured during interrogation; believed to be in poor health; held at Tadmur Military Prison or Saidnaya Prison; allowed brief visit every three months with family members; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International (AI UA 2/24/88; PHR; AI "Health Care and Human Rights," 4/88; CDF Health Professionals List 1992)

FAWWAZ AHMAD SHARBAK: ear, nose and throat specialist; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike; married; held in Tadmur Military Prison (AI *Index* 4/84; AI 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

JAMAL SHUMAN: 33-year-old general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike; married (AI *Index* 1/89)

MUHAMMAD NASIR AL-SIBA'I: 47-year-old anesthesiologist; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike; married with three children (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

TAWFIQ DRAQ AL-SIBA'I: 45-year-old neurologist; ran a medical clinic in Homs; detained in May 1980 after the Syrian censors intercepted a letter from his relatives in Saudi Arabia expressing concern about the political situation in Syria; accused of involvement in matters affecting state security; held in al-Mezze Military Prison in Damascus; has not been charged or tried; studied neurology in Montreal in 1973; married with five children (AI *Matchbox* 11/81; AI *Newsletter* 4/87; AI "Health Personnel," 4/91; NAS)

FADIL SIRAJIYYA: ophthalmologist; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

MUHAMMAD DIB TAHMAZ: 46-year-old general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

QADDUR 'UBAIDAN: 52-year-old general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike; married with five children (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

USAMA 'URFALI: general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

'ABD AL-SALAM 'UTHMAN: 43-year-old dentist; arrested in 1980 in Tartus following 1-day national strike; married; family allowed to visit him (AI *Index* 4/84; AI 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

MUSTAFA 'UTHMAN: surgeon; arrested in 1980 in Tartus following 1-day national strike; reportedly detained in Saidnaya Prison; married (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

'ADIL 'UTHMANI: dentist; arrested in 1980 in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike; may have died in detention (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90; AI 10/91)

'ABD AL-LATIF YUNUSU: 49-year-old veterinary surgeon; arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike; married with seven children (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

NICOLA AL-ZAHR: 47-year-old pharmacist from Damascus; arrested in October 1980 by Al-Amn al-Siyassi (Political Security) for suspected membership in prohibited Communist Party Political Bureau; held in 'Adra Civil

Prison; refused to renounce political activities and therefore was not released in 1991 amnesty; married with two children (AI 6/28/90; NAS; CDF Health Professionals List 1992)

SA'ID ZAIDAN: 35-year-old general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike; unmarried (AI *Index* 1/89; AI *Index* 5/21/90)

Appendix C

Engineers and Health Professionals Reported Detained or Imprisoned

This appendix lists engineers and health professionals who are reported to be detained or imprisoned, but not all information about their cases could be fully verified. What information exists comes from Amnesty International, the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria (CDF), and Middle East Watch. We believe, but have not always been able to confirm, that the individuals on this list are prisoners of conscience.

ENGINEERS (55)

TARIF ABDELRAZZAK: 32-year-old civil engineer from Hama; reportedly arrested in May 1986 and held in Saidnaya Prison

AHMAD 'ALI 'ABDUH: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1989 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

NABIH AL-'AFIF: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1986 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

SHAIKH HASSAN 'AHD: 36-year-old engineer; reportedly arrested in 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison; married with two children

KARIM AKKARI: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1986; believed to be held in Fara' Falastin detention center

JAMIL AIZOUQI: engineer from Tartus; reportedly arrested on October 18, 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison; married

NIHAD (or NIHAS) ALI: 30-year-old mechanical engineer from Tartus; reportedly arrested on November 7, 1987, and held in Latakiyya Military Prison; unmarried

MAHMUD AMER: engineer from Homs; reportedly arrested in 1983 for suspected involvement in prohibited Ba'ath Party faction

IBRAHIM BERAQDAR: petrochemical engineer from Homs; reportedly arrested on October 15, 1987, and held in Homs Military Prison

'ABD AL-KARIM DARWISH: engineer; reportedly arrested in April 1986 and again in 1992 for sheltering in his house a member of a banned political party

'ISSAM DIMASHQI: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1982 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action

JAMAL SAED AL-DIN (or EDDIN): 33-year-old civil engineer from Dar'a; reportedly arrested in April 1986 and held in Saidnaya Prison

YOUSEF DREIBATI: agronomy engineer from Latakiyya; reportedly arrested in 1982 for suspected involvement in prohibited Ba'ath Party faction

MUHAMMAD GHANEM: 30-year-old electrical engineer from Latakiyya; reportedly arrested on October 28, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Fara' Falastin detention center

JIHAD GHANNAM: civil aviation engineer from Latakiyya; reportedly arrested in 1983 for suspected involvement in prohibited Ba'ath Party faction

ALI HADLEH: 34-year-old engineer from Latakiyya; reportedly arrested in October 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Latakiyya Military Prison or in Saidnaya Prison; married

HAYTHAM HAMOUD: 30-year-old mechanical engineer from Tartus; reportedly arrested on October 7, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

'ABD AL-SHAIKH HASSAN: 36-year-old engineer; reportedly arrested

in 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

HASSAN HAYAWI: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1982 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

SAMIR HAYYAR: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action

MAEN IBRAHIM: 32-year-old electrical engineer from Latakiyya; reportedly arrested on October 28, 1987, and held in Fara' Falastin detention center

KASSIR 'ID: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1982 for suspected involvement in prohibited Ba'ath Party faction

MA'EN JAMOUS: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1987 and held at Fara' Falastin detention center

BASSAM AL-JUM'AH: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

NA'EL KABAKH: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

AHMAD KALAJI: 38-year-old engineer from Qataifa near Damascus; reportedly arrested in November 1980 in connection with Moslem Brotherhood; also detained for one month in early 1980

ADNAN MAHFOUDH (or MAHFOUZ): 34-year-old electrical engineer from Hama; reportedly arrested on September 1, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Tadmur Military Prison; married with one child

GHASSAN MARDINI: 42-year-old civil engineer from Damascus; reportedly arrested on December 2, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison; married with two children

MUHAMMAD MA'ROUF: 37-year-old agronomy engineer from Jableh; reportedly arrested on October 5, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Fara' Falastin detention center

HASSAN MAROUF: engineer from Tartus; reportedly arrested on Octo-

ber 24, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

AHMAD MASOUD: 33-year-old agronomy engineer from Hama; reportedly arrested on March 8, 1988, and held in Saidnaya Prison

JALAL MASOUD: 42-year-old agronomy engineer from Salamieh; reportedly arrested in February 1986 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

ZAFER AL-MIMAR (or MU'AMMAR): 32-year-old agronomy engineer from Salamieh; reportedly arrested on December 20, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

YASER MOULHEM: 32-year-old agronomy engineer from Mouhazzam; reportedly arrested in January 1987 and held in Saidnaya Prison

YAHYA MOURTADA: 34-year-old engineer from Damascus; reportedly arrested on September 8, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison; married

'ABD AL-KARIM MUTAWWAJ: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action

AHMAD NAJM: 35-year-old agronomy engineer from Masiaf; reportedly arrested in May 1985 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

WAFIQ NUQARI: 35-year-old civil engineer from Homs; reportedly arrested on October 10, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

IBRAHIM BIN QADDAR: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action

ALI QADOUR: engineer from Aleppo; reportedly arrested on August 24, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Fara' Falastin detention center

AHMAD QASSAB: 35-year-old agronomy engineer from Jableh; reportedly arrested on October 10, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

GHASSAN RA'IS QAYS: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

JOUM'A AL-RASHED: 39-year-old civil engineer from Der el-Zor; re-

portedly arrested on October 28, 1980, for suspected involvement in Nasserite political party; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison; married with one child; may have been released

TARIF 'ABD AL-RAZZAQ: 32-year-old engineer; reportedly arrested in 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

BARAKAT SALIM: 35-year-old agronomy engineer from Latakiyya; arrested on December 22, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison; married with three children

HASSAN (or AKRAM) SE'EWI: 35-year-old agronomy engineer from Mayadin; reportedly arrested in March 1982 and held in Saidnaya Prison

MOUNIR SHA'BO: 29-year-old mechanical engineer from Latakiyya; reportedly arrested on October 17, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Fara' Falastin or Military Interrogation Branch detention center

KEMAL SHARIF: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

HASSAN 'AHD AL-SHEIKH: 35-year-old engineer from Masiaf; reportedly arrested on September 12, 1987, and held in Saidnaya Prison; married with two children

GHABI SHI'BOU: 45-year-old engineer; reportedly arrested in 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

DAOWD SHIHADAH: engineer from Deir al-Zor; reportedly arrested in 1991 for suspected involvement with prohibited Arab Socialist Unity Party, a Nasserite political group, and for opposition to Gulf war.

MUHAMMAD AL-SIBA'I: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

FAWWAZ WANOUS: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1986 for suspected involvement in prohibited Ba'ath Party faction

JAMAL YANES: engineer; reportedly arrested in 1992 for suspected support of CDF; held in Saidnaya Prison

WA'IL ZAHRAWI: 37-year-old engineer from Homs; reportedly arrested on March 26, 1989, and held in Saidnaya Prison; married with one child

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (46)

KHULUD AL-'ABDALLAH: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Damascus following 1-day national strike

TAHSIN AL-'ABDALLAH: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike; may have been released in 1991

SHAM ZAIN AL-'ABIDIN: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Latakyya following 1-day national strike

MUHAMMAD 'AFISSA: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Latakyya following 1-day national strike

'ABD AL-BARI AL-AKHRAS: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 following 1-day strike

HISHAM 'ARNA'UT: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike

DR. 'ASSAF: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike

'ABD AL-'AZIZ 'ATTURA: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike

MUWAFFAQ 'AYYASH: 39-year-old health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike

NIMR BARAZI: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike

AHMAD FADHIL AL-BASH: health professional; reportedly arrested in 1986 for suspected membership in banned party

KAMAL KABA DAR: 37-year-old health professional; believed to have been arrested between 1980 and 1982 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike

RA'D DHOWEHI: 37-year-old veterinarian from Mayadin; reportedly arrested in March 1982; held in Saidnaya Prison

MUSTAFA FARJI: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike

'ABD AL-FATTAH: 63-year-old health professional; reportedly arrested in 1980 for suspected membership in a banned party

FU'AD FPAWI: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike

'ABD AL-MAJID GHAZAL: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike

MUHAMMAD 'ALI GHAZAL: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike

BASSIS FAWWAZ AL-HAJ: 33-year-old health professional; reportedly arrested in 1989

FAWWAZ BASSIS HAMOUDA: 32-year-old medical technician from Deir el-Zor; reportedly arrested on February 27, 1989, and held in Saidnaya Prison; unmarried

AHMAD HAZIFA: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Tartus following 1-day national strike

HABIB IBRAHIM: health professional from al-Hasakeh; reportedly arrested on December 10, 1987, for suspected membership in a banned party; believed to be held in Saidnaya Prison

MARWAN AL-IDLIBI: health professional; believed to have been arrested in Damascus in 1980-1982 following 1-day national strike

RADWAN 'IQRIN: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike

HUSSEIN JOUM'A 'ISSA: 33-year-old health professional from Qunaitra; reportedly arrested on February 15, 1988, for suspected membership in a banned party; held in Saidnaya Prison

HUSAIN JARRAH: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike

NADIM JAWDA: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike

SALIH AL-KHOJA: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Damascus following 1-day national strike; may have been released in 1991

ADIB KIRDAWI: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike

'ABD AL-RAHMAN KITTANJI: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike

WALID MA'MAR: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike

NAJI MUHABEK: health professional; believed to have been arrested in

1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

JAMAL RADHWAN: anesthetist from Qunaitra; reportedly arrested on September 12, 1987, and held in Saidnaya Prison; married with two children

'ARFAN RASHIDQI: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike

BASHIR SAIFU: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Damascus following 1-day national strike

TAISIR SAMSAM: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike

MUHAMMAD ZAKARIYYA SAQQAL: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike; may have been released in 1991

'ABD AL-'AZIZ 'ABD AL-QADIR SAWWAN: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike

RIAD 'ABD AL-QADIR SAWWAN: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike

SA'ID SHAKIR: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike; may have been released in 1991

'ABD AL-QADIR SHALLAT: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike

KHADR AL-SUTARI: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike; may have been released in 1991

'ABD AL-RAHMAN TUTU: 39-year-old health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike; married; may have been released in 1991

HUSAM 'UTHMAN: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Tartus following 1-day national strike

MAJID 'UTHMANI: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike

'ABD AL-FATTAH AL-WADI: health professional; believed to have been arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike

Appendix D

Engineers and Health Professionals Believed Dead or Who Have Disappeared in Detention

This appendix lists colleagues who are reported to have died in detention, to have been killed or executed, or who have disappeared in detention. Some of these people are also listed in Appendix B. The information comes from Amnesty International (AI), the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria (CDF), Middle East Watch (MEW), and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

COLLEAGUES REPORTED TO HAVE DIED IN DETENTION

Engineer

MUNIR FRANSIS: 30-year-old civil engineer; died on April 14 or 15, 1990, in al-Muwassat Civil Hospital in Damascus due to internal bleeding; arrested with 14 others in Yabrud at the end of March after anti-government slogans were found written on town walls; when his coffin was returned to his family, his body reportedly bore the marks of beatings (confirmed by MEW, AI, and NAS)

Health Professionals

ZAHY 'ABBADI: general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike (also listed in Appendix B)

MUHAMMAD FAIZ BISMAR: gynecologist; arrested in 1980 in Homs following 1-day national strike (also listed in Appendix B)

AHMAD AL-BUSHI: health professional; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike; adopted as prisoner of conscience by AI; death confirmed by AI in April 1992

DARWISH JANU: general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Damascus following 1-day national strike (also listed in Appendix B)

MUHAMMAD NINO: general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike; held at Tadmur Military Prison

(also listed in Appendix B)

MUHAMMAD MUKHLIS QANNUT: surgeon; arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike (also listed in Appendix B)

MUHAMMAD 'AKIF RUSTUM: pediatrician; arrested in 1980 in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike (also listed in Appendix B)

'ADIL 'UTHMANI: dentist; arrested in 1980 in Latakiyya following 1-day national strike (also listed in Appendix B)

ENGINEERS WHO DISAPPEARED IN DETENTION

OUSAMA AL-HASSAN: 34-year-old civil engineer from Tartus; reportedly arrested in 1987 or 1989 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action

MOUDAR AL-JUNDI: 34-year-old civil engineer from Tartus; reportedly arrested on September 20, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; detained in Fara' Falastin detention center, where he was reportedly tortured; his wife, Munira Huejeh, also a civil engineer, was arrested on political grounds in December 1987 and released in November 1991

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WHO WERE KILLED OR WHO DISAPPEARED IN HAMA

'UMAR AL-SHISHAKLI: president of Syrian Ophthalmological Society and officer of Hama Medical Association; reportedly tortured and executed by security forces in late 1980 or early 1981

The following doctors are also reported to have been killed at around the same time:

ALAAL BARAZI

MULHIM BARUDI

TAHER HADDAD

WALID AL-HAFIZ

'ABD AL-KADER KONDAQJI

AHMED QASSAB

KODR AL-SHISHAKLI'

KAMAL AL-SOUAD

Appendix E

Scientists, Engineers and Health Professionals Recently Released

This appendix lists 49 colleagues who were released in recent amnesties and provides information about their cases. The information comes from Amnesty International, the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria, *Index on Censorship*, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, Middle East Studies Association, Physicians for Human Rights, and the National Academy of Sciences.

SCIENTIST (1)

Economist

SALMAN 'ABDALLAH: released December 1991; 62-year-old former member of National Command of Ba'ath Party; abducted by Syrian forces in Lebanon in April 1971 and detained at al-Mezze Military Prison for 20 years, together with 17 others who served or were closely connected to the previous government (1966-1970)

ENGINEERS (32)

MUHAMMAD 'ALI AJJAJ: released December 1991; arrested in 1980 in Hama following 1-day national strike

ABDUL AL-HADI AKHRAS: released December 1991; civil engineer

arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike; held in 'Adra Civil Prison; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International

NAHED BADAUYA: released November 1991; 35-year-old civil engineer; arrested in Damascus in September 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; held in Douma Prison

'ABD AL-KARIM BARAKAT: released December 1991; 43-years-old; arrested in May 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike

RIAD AL-BASTATI: released December 1991; civil engineer and former Secretary-General of Damascus Branch of Syrian Engineers' Association; arrested in 1980 in Damascus following 1-day national strike; held in 'Adra Civil Prison; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International

'ADIL BITAR: reportedly released 1991; arrested in 1980 in Damascus following 1-day national strike (release not confirmed)

SAHAR AL-BUNNI: released December 1991; 35-year-old civil engineer from Hama; arrested in 1987; married to topographer, Mustafa Khalifa, who was arrested in 1982 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; held in Douma Prison (see Appendix B)

MOUSSA DALATI: released 1991; maritime mechanical engineer from Hama; reportedly arrested in 1982 for suspected membership in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party

JABER DIB: released 1991; agronomy engineer; arrested in 1983 in Latakia for suspected membership in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party

NIZAR DIB: released 1990; arrested in 1982 in Latakia for suspected membership in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party

ABDELRAHIM DMERIYA: released December 16, 1991; 40-year-old former assistant in Department of Civil Engineering, University of Damascus; arrested in 1986 for suspected involvement in prohibited Nasserist Popular Organization

BASSAM GHAITH: released 1991; 30-year-old civil engineer; arrested in Yabrud on September 8, 1987, for suspected involvement in prohibited Communist Party Political Bureau; held in Saidnaya Prison

YOUSSEF GHAITH: released December 16, 1991; 29-years-old; arrested in April 1990 in Yabrud after antigovernment slogans were found written on town walls; under suspicion because brother, Bassam, was arrested and imprisoned (see above)

RAA'FAT GHANEM: released 1992; electrical engineer from Tartus; re-

portedly arrested in 1982 for suspected membership in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party

SAMIR HADDAD: released December 1991; 35-year-old civil engineer; arrested on April 5, 1990 in Yabrud after antigovernment slogans were found written on town walls; suspected of being member of prohibited Communist Party Political Bureau; reportedly tortured and then hospitalized for kidney failure and respiratory arrest

MAY AL-HAFEZ: released December 1991; 37-year-old former lecturer at Faculty of Engineering, Aleppo University; arrested in fall of 1987 in Aleppo for suspected membership in prohibited Party for Communist Action; previously detained from August 27 to October 2, 1991; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International

SALTI AL-HAWCH: released December 1991; petroleum engineer from Der'a; arrested in 1983 for suspected membership in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party; held in Tadmur Military Prison until 1987 and then in Saidnaya Prison

MUNIRA HUEJEH: released November 1991; 35-year-old civil engineer from Salaieh; arrested in December 1987; married to civil engineer, Moudar al-Jundi, who was arrested in 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action and subsequently disappeared; held in Douma Prison (see Appendix D)

'AIDA (ADIDEH) KA'DAN: released 1991; female engineer; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike

JALAL KHANJI: released December 25, 1991; 42-year-old former lecturer at University of Aleppo; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike; member of Central Committee of Syrian Engineers' Association; detained in 'Adra Civil Prison; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International

GHAASSAN KHOURI: released December 16, 1991; 34-year-old assistant in Department of Architecture, University of Damascus; arrested in 1987 or 1988; held at Saidnaya Prison

HUSSEIN MADHKHANA; released December 14, 1991; civil engineer; arrested in 1986 for suspected membership in prohibited Nasserist political party

MUHAMMAD AL-MAHMOUD: released December 15, 1991; 41-year-old agronomy engineer; arrested in September 1987 for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; held in Saidnaya Prison

JIHAD MSOUTI: released fall 1991; 44-year-old former assistant profes-

sor of mechanical and electrical engineering, University of Damascus; arrested in March 1980 following 1-day national strike; held in 'Adra Civil Prison

GHASSAN NAJJAR: released December 20, 1991; 54-year-old mechanical engineer and former lecturer at University of Aleppo; arrested in March 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike; held at 'Adra Civil Prison; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International

SAMIR NU'AYSA: released May 1992; civil engineer; arrested on January 18, 1992, and sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment for withholding information from security forces about his brother, Aktham, an active CDF lawyer; released after 5 months in prison

HIND QAHWAJI: released December 1991; 36-year-old agricultural engineer from Tal al-Nin; arrested in March 1984 for the second time for belonging to prohibited Party for Communist Action; reportedly tortured; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International; held in Douma Prison

'ALI AL-RIFA'I: released 1991; 42-year-old agricultural engineer; reportedly arrested in 1981 in Dar'a for suspected membership in prohibited Arab Socialist Unity Party, a Nasserite political group; reportedly held in Dar'a Prison

MUHAMMAD NABIL SALIM: released December 14, 1991; 52-year-old former professor of soil mechanics and head of Department of Civil Engineering, Aleppo University; arrested in March 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike; detained at 'Adra Civil Prison; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International

MAMOUN AL-SAWAH: released December 12, 1991; 59-year-old electrical engineer; former manager of Swiss company in Damascus; arrested on April 21, 1980, in Damascus following 1-day national strike; held in 'Adra Civil Prison; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International

FADIA SHALISH: released November 1991; 35-year-old mechanical engineer from Tartus; arrested on February 15, 1988, for suspected involvement in prohibited Party for Communist Action; held in Douma Prison

ABDELRAZZAK SHEIKH SOLEIMAN: released 1991; 35-year-old mechanical engineer; arrested in 1988 for suspected involvement in prohibited Communist Party Political Bureau; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (16)

'ADEL 'ABBUD: released December 1991; 34-year-old veterinarian from Deir al-Zor; arrested February 25, 1989, for suspected involvement in prohibited Communist Party Political Bureau; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International; reportedly held in Saidnaya Prison

YASER AL-ALI: released December 14, 1991; 33-years-old; from Jableh; reportedly arrested in July 1983 for suspected membership in prohibited Communist Party Political Bureau; reportedly held in 'Adra Civil Prison

NOUR AL-DIN AL-ATASSI: released August 28, 1992; 64-year-old surgeon and former prime minister of Syria; arrested on November 13, 1970, together with other government officials following coup that brought Assad to power; held in al-Mezze Military Prison for 22 years; suffered heart attack in April 1992 and was hospitalized; was allowed to leave Syria following his release and died of cancer at American Hospital in Paris on December 3, 1992

SAMIR AI-'ASHUR AI-'ASKARI: released 1991; 31-year-old dermatology intern; reportedly arrested in 1983 for suspected membership in prohibited Party for Communist Action; believed to have been held in Aleppo prison

MUHAMMAD NIZAR AL-DAQR: released 1991; former professor of dermatology; arrested in 1980 in Damascus following 1-day national strike; reportedly held in Tadmur Military Prison

MAHMOUD AL-ERIAN: released December 14, 1991; 42-year-old gynecologist; arrested in September 1986 in Idlib; accused of belonging to prohibited "Nasserite organization of Syria"; detained in Saidnaya Prison; reportedly nearly paralyzed and in need of surgery during period in detention

AYHAM HADDAD: released December 1991; 30-year-old general practitioner; arrested in 1988 in Damascus for suspected membership in prohibited Democratic Ba'ath Party; reportedly tortured; detained in 'Adra Civil Prison

GHASSAN MUSTAFA AL-HAJ: released December 1991; arrested in 1980 in Idlib following 1-day national strike

MUWAFFAQ HILALI: released December 1991; 34-years-old; arrested on September 14, 1987, in Saidnaya for suspected membership in prohibited Communist Party Political Bureau; reportedly tortured; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International

MAHMUD AL-JAZIRI: released fall 1991; former professor of surgery at

Faculty of Medicine, Damascus University; arrested in 1980 following 1-day national strike

BASSAM KHATTAB: released December 1991; 40-years-old; from Tibat al-Imam; arrested in May 1983 for suspected membership in prohibited Communist Party Political Bureau; reportedly tortured and detained in Saidnaya Prison; adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International

HAROUN AL-KHAYR: released December 1991; 44-year-old former assistant at Faculty of Dentistry, Tishrin University; arrested in 1987

GEORGES NAKHLEH: released December 17, 1991; 42-years-old; arrested in July 1983 in Yabrud for suspected involvement in prohibited Communist Party Political Bureau; held at Saidnaya Prison

'AYISHA QUTAISH: released 1988 or 1991; female general practitioner; arrested in 1980 in Aleppo following 1-day national strike

'ABD AL-AZIZ AL-SALIH: released December 1991; arrested in 1980 in Deir al-Zor following 1-day national strike

'ABD AL-RA'UF 'UBAID: released 1991; former professor of neurology at Faculty of Medicine, University of Aleppo; arrested in 1980 in Idlib

