

BY EMAIL & BY POST & BY FAX

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Our ref: LC/Syria

23 January 2009

FOR THE ATTENTION OF:

- **Special Rapporteur on Torture**
- **Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions**
- **Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Urgent Action: Arrest and Detention of Mustafa Jum`a, Darweesh Ghaleb, Mohammed Saed Hossein Al-Omar, Sadoon Mahmoud Shekho, Salah Saed Unis in Syria

I am writing to express our grave concern and to request your urgent intervention regarding the arrest and detention of Mustafa Jum`a, Darweesh Ghaleb, Mohammed Saed Hossein Al-Omar, Sadoon Mahmoud Shekho and Salah Saed Unis, Syrian nationals of Kurdish origin. Kurdish Human Rights Project (KHRP) is greatly concerned about the reports of arbitrary arrest and detention of these individuals and the circumstances of their detention. It appears that they have been targeted by the Syrian Authorities as a consequence of their Kurdish origin.

Mr Darweesh Ghaleb, born in 1945 and he is a linguist and computer engineer. He has five children and has dedicated his life to serve the Kurdish language. He has run many Kurdish language courses during the last few years, even though the Kurdish language is forbidden in Syria. He has established the Committee for Learning the Kurdish Language, which has helped hundreds of young Kurdish men and women to learn the Kurdish language. Mr Darweesh Ghaleb has also been a member of the Kurdish PEN Centre for years and has great contribution to the cause of the Kurdish language. He was taken from home by the Syrian security force in Qamishli

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on 13 January 2009 and he is still in detention. The security forces have again raided his home on 15 January 2009 and confiscated all his books, writings and transcripts.

Mustafa Jum'a, born in 1947 in the north-Syrian department of Aleppo in the district of Kobane. He has twelve children. He is the deputy chairperson of the Syrian Kurdish Azadi Party in Syria. He was arrested on 6 January 2009 by the Syrian security forces after a trial in Aleppo. He had been summoned to appear before the military secret service. According to reports from his party he was transferred to Damascus on 10 January 2009. He is being held at present by the military secret service in the Fir'a Vilistin near the Syrian capital.

These arrests took place at the same time two other Syrians of Kurdish origin were arrested: Nasser Daqori, born in 1962 was arrested on 11 January 2009 by the political security services in Amuda town. Kadar Mahmoud Saadoh was arrested on 16 January 2009, in Qamishli city by intelligence security services.

In addition, we are concerned about a number of Kurdish activists who were detained in October 2008 and who remain in prison.

Mohammed Saed Hossein Al-Omar and Sadoon Mahmoud Shekho are members of the leading committee of the Kurdish Azadi Party in Syria. They were arrested by the Syrian military security services in the towns of Romelan and Raas al-Ein on 26 October 2008. Salah Saed Unis, a Kurdish activist was also arrested on 31 October 2008 by military security services in Amuda town.

The Kurdish Human Rights Project has consistently highlighted the discriminatory treatment of Kurds in Syria and noted that they are particularly at risk of arbitrary arrest and torture. Kurdish human rights defenders, civil society activists and those deemed to be associated with Kurdish political parties or groups who raise concerns about the Kurdish issue are often subjected to this practice.

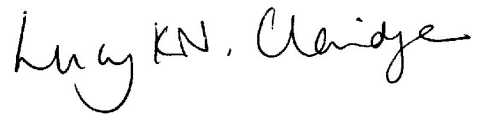
In the light of this systematic practice, we believe that there is a real risk of Mustafa Jum`a, Darweesh Ghaleb, Mohammed Saed Hossein Al-Omar, Sadoon Mahmoud Shekho, Salah Saed Unis who are currently detained being subjected to torture or inhuman treatment in violation of Syria's international human rights obligations under the ICCPR, UNCAT and ICERD.

I urge you to raise these issues with the Syrian Government as a matter of urgency. I should be grateful if you would kindly confirm what action you

will be taking and to inform us of any response received from the Syrian authorities.

Finally, I would be grateful for your acknowledgement of receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully



Lucy Claridge
Legal Director