

# URGENT ACTION

## WHEREABOUTS OF DISAPPEARED MEN UNKNOWN

**Forcibly disappeared student Adel Barazi from Damascus was recently seen in Saydnaya Military Prison, where he is at risk of being tortured and otherwise ill-treated. The whereabouts of three men who were arrested together with Adel Barazi remain unknown.**

A relative of **Adel Barazi**, who lives outside of Syria, received information in early 2016 from a former detainee who said he briefly saw Adel Barazi in Saydnaya Military Prison, north of Damascus, before the detainee was released from there. He said Adel Barazi looked "skinny and very pale". Detainees in Saydnaya Military Prison are generally not allowed to contact their families or have access to a lawyer and are routinely subjected to torture and other ill-treatment.

Tourism student Adel Barazi was arrested when a group of uniformed armed men raided his apartment in the Dummar al-Balad area, north-west of Damascus, around midnight on 11 August 2012. The armed men also arrested Adel Barazi's friend, student **Ismael Hammoudeh**, his brother-in-law, **Zaki Kordelo**, and his nephew, **Mihyar Kordelo**, who all lived in the same building. No information about the reason for their arrest was given.

Following their arrest, their family contacted a lawyer, petitioned the Minister of Justice and contacted the Minister of Reconciliation for information about the four men but was unable to find out anything about their fates. Former detainees claimed to have seen Adel Barazi and Ismael Hammoudeh in a detention facility of the Air Force Intelligence in Damascus in September 2012, while Zaki Kordelo and Mihyar Kordelo were reportedly seen in Military Intelligence Branch 215 in Damascus.

### **Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:**

- Urging the Syrian authorities to disclose immediately the whereabouts of Adel Barazi, Ismael Hammoudeh, Zaki Kordelo and Mihyar Kordelo, give them immediate access to their families, lawyers and any medical attention they may require, and ensure they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment;
- Asking them to release the four men unless they are promptly charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence, and tried according to international fair trial standards.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 APRIL 2016 TO:**

#### Permanent Representative to the UN

Bashar Ja'afari, Ambassador  
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
820 Second Avenue, 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Fax: +1 212 983 4439  
E-mail: [exesec.syria@gmail.com](mailto:exesec.syria@gmail.com)  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

President  
Bashar al-Assad  
Fax: +963 11 332 3410 (keep trying)  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister of Defence  
General Fahd Jassem al-Frej  
Fax: +963 11 223 7842 (keep trying)  
+963 11 666 2460 (keep trying)  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Adel Barazi is 32 years old. At the time of his arrest, he was in his final year at the faculty of tourism at Damascus University. Adel Barazi's friend Ismael Hammoudeh, who is 25 years old, is also a student. He was enrolled with the faculty of geology at Damascus University. Both 'Adel Barazi and Ismael Hammoudeh are originally from Salamiyeh, near Hama.

Zaki Kordelo is a 55-year-old theatre producer. His son, Mihyar Kordelo, is in his mid-twenties and studied at the Higher Institute of Theatrical Arts.

According to Adel Barazi's relative, the men were not known to be politically active.

Former detainees held in Saydnaya Military Prison told Amnesty International that they were routinely beaten by the guards and witnessed other detainees being beaten to death or dying as a result of prison conditions, which included extremely cold temperatures for which detainees were given inadequate clothing.

For more information on enforced disappearances in Syria, please refer to Amnesty International's report '*Between Prison and the grave: Enforced disappearances in Syria*' (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE24/2579/2015/en/>).

Name: 'Adel Barazi, Ismael Hammoudeh, Zaki Kordelo and Mihyar Kordelo  
Gender m/f: m

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