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NASSER SABER BONDEK

POET AND STAFF MEMBER AT THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED BY AGENTS OF THE
SYRIAN STATE SINCE 17 FEBRUARY 2014

Nasser Saber Bondek lives in Sahnaya, a suburb of Damascus, the capital, though he is originally from al-Suwayda, a predominantly Druze area in southern Syria near the Jordanian border.

Members of the Syrian security forces believed to be from Military Intelligence arrived at his home around 6.30pm on 17 February 2014 and arrested him. Initially it was not clear where he was taken but a released detainee later claimed to have seen Nasser Saber Bondek at Military Intelligence Branch 227 in Damascus. Since then, no one has seen or heard from him.

The exact reasons for Nasser Saber Bondek's arrest are unknown but could be related to his involvement in humanitarian assistance activities, such as aiding the internally displaced. His wife is a peaceful political activist, and is known for attending demonstrations. She had fled Syria with their children out of fear of arrest by the authorities before her husband was arrested.

The Syrian authorities have not provided any information about his fate or whereabouts or reasons for his arrest.

ACTION

Please write to the Syrian President through the Syria Permanent Representative to the UN to call on the Syrian authorities to:

- Release Nasser Saber Bondek immediately and unconditionally if he is held solely for peacefully engaging in humanitarian assistance work;
- Urgently inform his family of his fate and whereabouts;
- Ensure that he is protected from secret detention, torture and other ill-treatment, and allowed immediate contact with his family and a lawyer of his choice.

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