

# Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft Hauptvorstand



Vorsitzender

His Excellency  
Bashar al-Assad  
Presidential Palace  
Damascus/SYRIA

Fax 00963-11 332 3410

9 July 2008  
-/kg

Mahmoud al-Najjar

Your Excellency,

The GEW, the German Education Union, representing some 250.000 teachers and education employees in Germany, is very concerned about the detention of the teacher Mahmoud al-Najjar. He has been kept incommunicado at an unknown location since 16 June 2008 and no reasons have been given for his detention. Neither is he allowed to receive visits from his family and/or a lawyer of his choosing. Since Mahmoud al-Najjar suffers from chronic lung problems and other illnesses we urge you to see to it that he gets any medical treatment he may require.

As a trade union and affiliate of Education International, organizing 30 millions of members working in teaching professions, we are concerned about trade union and human rights all over the world.

We call on you to guarantee that Mahmoud al-Najjar will not be tortured or otherwise ill-treated. In this connection we point out to the fact that Syria is a state party to the UN Convention Against Torture.

Unless Mahmoud al-Najjar is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence we urgently ask you to release him immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Ulrich Thöne', is written over the typed name.

Ulrich Thöne  
President of GEW  
Board Member of Education International