His Excellency Bashar al-Assad  
Presidential Palace  
Damascus  
Syria

Our Ref: DPAJS/js

7 October 2013

Dear Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of the British Medical Association to express our grave concern about the death in custody of Dr Osama Baroudi. Dr Baroudi was arrested, held without trial and, according to reputable sources such as Amnesty International, was seen by eyewitnesses being tortured repeatedly. Dr Baroudi also suffered from several chronic health conditions for which we believe he was not receiving appropriate treatment. Information published by the British Medical Journal indicates that since March 2011, 17 medical professionals have died or been executed in detention.

The BMA is deeply concerned by the Syrian Government's continued flouting of international human rights standards, including rights to a fair trial and its complete disrespect for the principle of medical neutrality. The BMA therefore urges the Syrian Government to commission an immediate independent investigation into the death of Dr Baroudi, and to ensure the fundamental human rights of all people detained under its jurisdiction.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Vivienne Nathanson  
Director of Professional Activities