

British Medical Association
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His Excellency Bashar Ja'afri PhD
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
820 Second Avenue, 15th Floor
New York
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United States of America

Ethics

Our Ref: DPA/JS/js

18 December 2013

Your Excellency

RE: Dr Abbas Khan

I am writing on behalf of the British Medical Association to express our profound sadness, and our deep concern over the death in detention of Dr Abbas Khan, a British national following his incarceration in a Syrian gaol for thirteen months. In our understanding Dr Khan, an orthopaedic surgeon was unlawfully arrested for peacefully attempting to provide medical treatment and assistance to injured civilians during the conflict in Syria. The BMA is also extremely alarmed by reports that Dr Khan had been tortured and in other ways maltreated during his time in detention.

The BMA remains deeply concerned by the Syrian government's continued flouting of international human rights standards including rights to a fair trial and its complete disregard for medical neutrality. We therefore urge you to undertake as a matter of urgency a thorough independent investigation into the death of Dr Khan and to ensure proper respect for the fundamental rights of all individuals under Syrian jurisdiction.

Yours sincerely

Professor Vivienne Nathanson
Director of Professional Activities

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7 October 2013

Your 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
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vivienne Nathanson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Professor Vivienne Nathanson
Director of Professional Activities