

British Medical Association
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His Excellency President Bashar al-Assad
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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