

November 1<sup>st</sup> 2011

## Free Rafah Nached

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, has expressed, on Friday 14 October, deep dismay at the worsening human rights situation in Syria. More than 3000 people have been killed since March 2011 and thousands have been arrested, detained, forcibly disappeared and tortured, she said.

The psychoanalyst Rafah Nached is one of them. She has been detained in the Douma prison, under harsh conditions, since her arrest at Damas airport on 10 September, where she was getting ready to board a flight of Air France in the direction of Paris to assist her daughter giving birth. She is accused of “promoting upheaval, the overthrow of the government and disrespect for public order”, she risks many years in jail. We are very concerned about her health since she has heart problems.

Rafah Nached, 66 years old, has a degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Paris 7. She is the first woman psychoanalyst practicing in Syria. She founded recently the School of Psychoanalysis in Damascus, together with French psychoanalysts and in November 2010 she organized the first international seminar of Psychoanalysis in Damascus. Her professional commitment has always been of scientific and humanitarian nature, at the exclusion of all political implications.

Her case has mobilized people throughout the world, especially among the scientific community. The European Parliament and prominent political figures have also called for her release. UFER has launched a petition, sent communications to various UN mechanisms, contacted a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and undertaken a letter campaign to embassies of the Syrian Arab Republic in various countries.

Join us in our efforts to free Rafah Nached by signing the petition and encouraging your friends to do so: <http://www.lapetition.be/petition.php?petid=10402> and by sending letters to the Syrian Embassy in your country.

[Download model letter](#)

[Resolution adopted by the European Parliament](#) with regards to the detention of Rafah Nached

