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October 29, 2012

President Bashar al-Assad  
Presidential Palace, al-Rashid Street  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic  
Fax: +963 11 332 3410

*Re: Call for the release of Bassel Khartabil*

Your Excellency:

Creative Commons expresses alarm at the detainment of Bassel Khartabil, a respected computer engineer specializing in open source software development. We understand that Mr. Khartabil has been detained by the Syrian government without communication since 15 March, 2012. Creative Commons urges Syrian authorities to grant Bassel immediate access to his family, a lawyer of his choice, and all necessary medical treatment.

Creative Commons calls on Syrian authorities to release Bassel Khartabil, unless he is promptly charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offense and tried in proceedings that respect international fair trial standards. Further, Creative Commons calls on Syrian authorities to ensure that Bassel Khartabil is protected from torture and other ill treatment.

Mr. Khartabil is a valuable contributor to, and leader in, the technology community. Across all aspects of his work, his expertise and focus has been in support of the development of publicly available, free, open source computer software code and technical tools. He pursues this not only through his valuable volunteer efforts in support of Creative Commons, but in all of his work in the technology arena. Through his efforts, the quality and availability of freely and openly available technology is improved and advanced.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine M. Casserly'.

Catherine M. Casserly, Ph.D.  
CEO, Creative Commons



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cc: President Bashar al-Assad  
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Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Walid al-Mu'allim  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
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