Syria: Labour Party of Syria
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

An April 2002 *Middle East International* report states that members of a "Revolutionary Labour Party" was seen in 2002 distributing leaflets openly in the streets of Damascus, calling for the release of political prisoners and an end to martial law and arbitrary rulings (19 Apr. 2002, 19).


A 2001 Inter Pres Service (IPS) report quotes the head of the Committees for the Defense of Human Rights who said that members of the "Syrian Communist Labor Party" who were arrested between 1987 and 1992 were freed in 2001 following an amnesty "marking the 31st anniversary of late President Hafez al-Assad's rise to power" (20 Nov. 2001).

The original Syrian Communist Party-Faysal (SCP-Faysal) was founded by Yusuf al-Faysal in 1924 (Leftist Parties of the World 23 Aug. 2003). In 2003, the SCP-Faysal had four seats in parliament (ibid.).

In 1973, a faction led by Riyad al-Turk split from the original SCP Faysal to become the Syrian Communist Party-Political Bureau (ibid.). This political party had no seats in parliament in 2003 (ibid.).

In 1986, a faction led by Wisal Farhah Bagdash left the original SCP to become the Syrian Communist Party-Bagdash (SCP-Bagdash). This political organization had four seats in parliament in 2003 (ibid.)

In 2002 the National Committee for the Unity of Syrian Communists was created largely by dissident members of the SCP-Bagdash (ibid.).

No additional information on the Syrian Labour (Labor) Party could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

**References**


2003]


**Additional Sources Consulted**

Dialog

IRB databases

*Political Handbook of the World 1999*

*Political Handbook of the World 1991*

*Political Parties of Africa and the Middle East*. 1993

*Political Parties of the World*. 2002

*Political Parties of the World*. 1988

*Revolutionary and Dissident Movements of the World*. 1991

*World Encyclopedia of Political Systems and Parties*. 1987

**Internet sites, including:**

Amnesty International, including its *Annual Report 2003*

European Country of Information Networld (ECOI.Net)

Human Rights Watch (HRW), including its *World Report 2003*

World News Connection (WNC)
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