

URGENT ACTION

IRAQI CLERIC RELEASED FROM DETENTION IN IRAN

Iraqi cleric and commentator, Ahmed al-Qubbanji, has been released from detention in Iran. He is safely back in Iraq.

Ahmed al-Qubbanji (56), a Shi'a Muslim cleric, has been released from detention in Iran. Amnesty International has been informed that he has safely returned to Baghdad, Iraq.

Ahmed al-Qubbanji was visiting a family member in Qom, central Iran, when he was arrested by officials believed to be from Iran's Ministry of Intelligence on 17 or 18 February. Amnesty International is unaware whether he was charged with any specific offence before his release. However, according to media reports, an Iranian Intelligence official said on an Iranian radio station that Ahmed al-Qubbanji had been suspected of "spying for Israel". His family dismissed the allegations against him. At no point during his detention did the authorities disclose his whereabouts to his family. On 21 February, Ahmed al-Qubbanji's supporters reportedly held a protest outside the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, calling for his release.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 54/13. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/010/2013/en>

Name: Ahmed al- Qubbanji

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 54/13 Index: MDE 13/013/2013 Issue Date: 14 March 2013

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