

PUBLIC

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Fear of imminent executions

4 September 1998

IRAQ' Adnan Kamil 'Abdullah
Sayyid 'Ubadi al-Batat
Sayyid Thamir al-Yassiri
al-Shaikh Hamid 'Abdullah
Colonel Muhammad Radhi
Lieutenant-Colonel Muhammad Hardan Al Jubair
Lieutenant-Colonel 'Abd al-Amir Yassir Al Zairaj
Brigadier-General Tariq Hassan Salih
Yassin 'Ali Al Washah
Ahmad 'Ali Al Washah

The above-named men are reportedly at imminent risk of execution - although unconfirmed reports indicate that Sayyid Thamir al-Yassiri may already have been executed.

The men, reportedly arrested over the past few months, have been sentenced to death for their suspected opposition to the government. Amnesty International is not aware of any trial procedures against them. The men are currently believed to be detained at the General Security Directorate (*al-Amn al-'Am*), in Baghdad.

There are additional fears that a great number of other prisoners and detainees are also at risk of execution.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Earlier this year Amnesty International wrote to the Iraqi Government requesting clarification of reports that in November and December 1997 several hundred prisoners, including possible prisoners of conscience, were executed in Abu Ghraib and al-Radhwaneya Prisons. A list of 288 alleged victims was included.

In June the Iraqi Government responded, accusing the organization of "repeating the same allegations as in previous reports" and getting information from "sources known to be hostile to Iraq". However, Amnesty International has since obtained detailed testimonies from a number of victims' relatives.

Following this, reports continue concerning the mass execution of prisoners.

In June more than 60 prisoners were reported to have been executed at Abu Ghraib Prison. The majority of the victims, originating from the southern provinces, were said to have been arrested following the March 1991 uprising against the government.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express/airmail letters in English, Arabic or in your own language:

- expressing concern that the 10 people named above are reportedly at risk of imminent execution;
- requesting details of any charges brought against them and of any trial procedures followed in their case, quoting Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "*Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him*";
- seeking clarification of reports that Sayyid Thamir al-Yassiri may already have been executed;

- expressing concern at continuing reports of mass executions of prisoners and detainees and requesting clarification of these reports;
- urging that a moratorium on executions be declared and that a review of all outstanding death sentences be undertaken with a view to commuting them.

APPEALS TO:

H.E. President Saddam Hussain
President of the Republic
Presidential Palace
Karadat Mariam
Baghdad, Iraq

Telegrams: President Hussain, Baghdad, Iraq
Telexes: 212299 alqasr ik
Salutation: Your Excellency

H.E. Muhammad Zammam 'Abd al-Razzaq
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Baghdad, Iraq

Telegrams: Interior Minister al-Razzaq, Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

H.E. Shabib Lazem al-Maliki
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Baghdad, Iraq

Telegrams: Justice Minister al-Maliki, Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

Due to a limited and irregular postal service to Iraq, if possible please send telegrams and telexes. Alternatively you may write directly to Iraq's diplomatic representative in your country.

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Iraq accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY

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Article 10, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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