

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 14/003/2008

19 February 2008

UA 43/08      Fear of torture or ill-treatment

IRAQ      Ussama al-Mulla (m)      ]  
Ryadh al-Qaysi (m)      ] professors at Baghdad University's Faculty  
Fakhri 'Abd Fatlawi (m)      ] of Dentistry  
Four other Baghdad University staff members (names unknown)

---

Three professors at Baghdad University's Faculty of Dentistry and four other university staff have been detained by Iraqi security forces and are at risk of torture and ill-treatment.

On 17 February, armed men wearing Iraqi security uniforms entered the Faculty of Dentistry. They went to the office of the Dean of the Faculty and threatened him at gunpoint, telling him they had arrest warrants for 10 university staff. Three professors, Ussama al-Mulla, Ryadh al-Qaysi and Fakhri 'Abd Fatlawi, were arrested, along with four other staff members, whose names are not available to Amnesty International. The seven were taken to al-Salihiya police station in Baghdad, where they are at risk of torture.

The arrest warrants were apparently issued by an official body, and related to the investigation into the murder of the previous Dean of the Dentistry Faculty.

At the time of the arrests, a number of students who protested against the arrests were detained in a room within the faculty and beaten by the same security forces before being released.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Torture and ill-treatment of detainees is widespread throughout police stations and detention centres under the control of the Iraqi security forces. Amnesty International has received numerous reports about detainees being tortured by Iraqi security forces. Former prisoners who were held in police stations and pre-trial detention facilities controlled by the Ministry of Interior have reported torture such as routine beatings with hosepipes, cables and other implements, prolonged suspension from the limbs in contorted and painful positions for extended periods, electric shocks, the breaking of limbs and being forced to sit on sharp objects.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic, English or your own language:**

- calling for assurances that Ussama al-Mulla, Ryadh al-Qaysi and Fakhri 'Abd Fatlawi and four other Baghdad University staff are being treated humanely in detention at al-Salihiya police station in Baghdad, and not tortured or ill-treated;
- seeking clarification of the reasons for their arrest, and asking if any charges have been brought against them;
- requesting assurances that they have access to their families, lawyers of their own choosing and any necessary medical care;
- calling for their immediate release unless they are to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence.

**APPEALS TO:** Email addresses for the Iraqi authorities are proving unreliable. If there is no email address given, or if your email bounces, please send appeals to the authorities via the Iraqi embassy or diplomatic representative in your country, asking them to forward your appeals to:

President

Jalal Talabani

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

**E-mail:** questions@iraqipresidency.net

Prime Minister

Nuri Kamil al-Maliki

**E-mail:** iraqigov@yahoo.com

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Safi al-Din al-Safi

**E-mail:** minister@iraqi-justice.org

deputy@iraqi-justice.org

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hoshyar Zebari

**E-mail:** press@iraqmofa.net

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of Iraq accredited to your country. Ask them to send copies to the Human Rights Minister, Wajdan Mikhail.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 April 2008.