

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 14/09/00

25 July 2000

Further information on UA 219/00 (MDE 14/08/00, 19 July 2000) - Incommunicado detention/fear of torture/forcible expulsion/fear of forcible return and new concern: "disappearance"

**IRAQ/IRAQI KURDISTAN Sadiq Nikbin (Iranian National): injured
Najal, real name: Nidhal Ahmad, and arrest of
New name: Kuchar**

Sadiq Nikbin is reported to have been injured and captured, not killed, by PUK security forces on 14 July. He and another Iranian national, Arsh Baqri, are at risk of forcible return to Iran, where they would face serious human rights violations.

Nidhal Ahmad, a Shi'a Muslim from southern Iraq and a known opponent of the Iraqi government, has reportedly "disappeared" since his arrest on 13 or 14 July. There are fears that he may be handed over to the Iraqi authorities.

On 21 July PUK security forces reportedly raided a women's refuge run by the Independent Women's Organization (IWO) in Sulaimaniya. Several women were arrested and reportedly released later. The refuge, which gave shelter to women abused by their relatives, has been closed.

A well-known poet from Sulaimaniya, Kuchar, was reportedly arrested at his home on 22 July, for criticizing the PUK authorities' human rights abuses against the Iraqi Workers' Communist Party (IWCP) and the IWO. His whereabouts are now unknown.

Many of those arrested since 13 July are said to have been released, although the exact number is not known. Among those reportedly released are IWCP members Tahar Hassan, Saman Karim and Fu'ad Sadiq.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, Arabic, Kurdish or your own language, continuing appeals as before and also:

- asking why Kuchar was arrested;
- urging that he be immediately released if he was arrested solely for the peaceful expression of his political beliefs;
- urging a full investigation into the "disappearance" of Nidhal Ahmad.

APPEALS TO:

Jalal Talabani
President
Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK)
Sulaimaniya
Kurdistan
Iraq

**Telegrams: President, PUK, Kurdistan, Iraq
Salutation: Dear Mr Talabani**

Jalal Talabani
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Salutation:Dear Mr Talabani

Jalal Talabani

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Salutation:Dear Mr Talabani

COPIES TO: Office of the PUK, if there is one in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 September 2000.