

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 14/10/00

16 August 2000

Further information on UA 219/00 (MDE 14/08/00, 19 July 2000) and follow-up (MDE 14/09/00, 25 July 2000) - Incommunicado detention/fear of torture/forcible expulsion/fear of forcible return/"disappearance"

IRAQ/IRAQI KURDISTANSadiq Nikbin (Iranian national)

Nidhal Ahmad  
Kuchar

New names: Shazin Heersh  
Saman Mohammad  
Haydar Rassam  
Mohammad Najam  
Kamran Latif  
Karim Latif  
Jaza Mohammad  
Azad Mohammad Amin

Kazal Jamal (f), Surma Rassul Mina (f), Layla Isma'il (f), Niyan 'Ali Ahmad (f), Asmar 'Abdullah (f), Shukhan Salih (f), Bayan (f), Ajin (f), Zaman (f), Badriya Rassul (f), Batsuz 'Abdullah (f), 'Aisha (f)

The PUK intend to hand Sadiq Nikbin over to the Iranian authorities on 17 August. He would face serious human rights violations if he were returned to Iran. He is now under guard at a hospital in Sulaimaniya.

A number of others with links to the Iraqi Workers' Communist Party (IWCP) and Independent Women's Organization (IWO) are now known to have been arrested, and many in grave danger.

Poet and writer Shazin Heersh is said to have been arrested on 21 July, at a well known club for intellectuals in Sulaimaniya, reportedly for denouncing the closure of the IWO office and the arrests that followed. His whereabouts are now unknown.

Also arrested that day were IWCP members Saman Mohammad, a security guard at the IWO office, and Haydar Rassam. Their whereabouts are now unknown. Another of the security guards at the IWO office, IWCP member Mohammad Najam, has also been arrested.

After the 21 July raid on the IWO-run women's refuge in Sulaimaniya, the 12 women named above, who had been sheltering there from abuse by relatives, are said to have been moved to the PUK Security Directorate in Sulaimaniya. Amnesty International fears that they may be handed over to their families or relatives, and would be at risk of serious human rights abuses. Another woman who left the refuge in June, Nasrin 'Aziz Rashid, is said to have been killed by a relative.

Also, an orphanage in Sulaimaniya was closed down by the PUK authorities on 14 July. The whereabouts of 22 orphans are now unknown.

Four other IWCP members have been arrested in Sulaimaniya, and their whereabouts are now unknown. Brothers Kamran and Karim Latif were arrested on 9 August, reportedly while they were distributing copies of the magazine 'Alem al-Atfal.

Jaza Mohammad and Azad Mohammad Amin were arrested the following day, reportedly while distributing leaflets.

There is still no information about the fate and whereabouts of Kuchar and Nidhal Ahmad.

A number of PUK members who had reportedly condemned the arrests of IWCP members and others since 13 July 2000, are also said to have been arrested.

On 26 July Amnesty International wrote to the leader of the PUK to raise its concerns about recent events in the area of northern Iraq controlled by the PUK. No response has so far been received.

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

- urging that Sadiq Nikbin is not forcibly returned to Iran;
- asking why Shazin Heersh was arrested;
- urging that he be immediately released if he was arrested solely for the peaceful expression of his political beliefs;
- asking what has happened to all those still in custody after they were arrested in connection with anti-PUK demonstrations since 13 July;
- seeking assurances that they are being treated humanely and have regular access to lawyers of their own choosing, their families and any medical care they may require;
- urging that the 12 women who had been sheltering in the refuge in Sulaimaniya are not handed over to their families, and asking what steps have been taken to ensure that they do not become victims of human rights abuses.

**APPEALS TO:**

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

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

Jalal Talabani  
c/o PUK United Kingdom  
First Floor, 5 Glasshouse Walk,  
Vauxhall  
London SE11 5ES  
UK

**Faxes: + 44 20 7840 0630**  
**Salutation: Dear Mr Talabani**

Jalal Talabani  
c/o PUK USA  
444 N. Capitol Street, NW, Suite 837  
Washington D. C. 20001  
USA

**Faxes: + 1 202 6372723**  
**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 27 September 2000.