

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 14/11/99

UA 281/99

Fear of T

**IRAQ 'Ali Jabbar 'Adwan
Sattar Jabbar 'Adwan
Sa'ad 'Abdul Ridha Raisan
Laith 'Adil 'Ali**

On 25 October 1999, the four men named above made a televised confession to the killing, in January 1997, of a former government Minister and to being spies for Iran. Amnesty International is concerned that their alleged confessions may have been extracted under duress and may have an impact upon the fairness of their trial. If convicted the four may be given the death penalty and could face imminent execution.

The men were reportedly arrested when they returned to Iraq from Iran. A fifth man is also being sought by the authorities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has in the past raised its concerns with the Iraqi authorities about the use of televised confessions which are contrary to the fundamental principles of international law, including Iraq's obligation as a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

In December 1996 four men appeared on Iraqi television and confessed their involvement in a spy network for the benefit of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). All four were subsequently sentenced to death. It is not known whether the sentences have been carried out. In March 1999 four men confessed on national television to the killing a month earlier of a man and his sons. In April 1999 the Iraqi authorities announced that all four had been executed.

To Amnesty International's knowledge legal proceedings against all those who made televised confessions did not meet international standards for fair trial. Trials were conducted in secrecy and defendants had no access to family and lawyers.

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

- expressing concern that Ali Jabbar 'Adwan, Sattar Jabbar 'Adwan, Sa'ad 'Abdul Ridha Raisan and Laith 'Adil 'Ali may be sentenced to death after making televised confessions to a crime which could impact upon the fairness of their trial;
- expressing concern that the televised statements may have been extracted under torture;
- requesting details about their arrest and current place of detention;
- requesting details about the legal proceedings in their cases including full details of the charges against them, the date and place of the trial, and whether they have been granted access to lawyers of their own choosing, their families and medical assistance if necessary;
- seeking assurances that the four men are being treated humanely.

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

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Baghdad, Iraq

Fax: + 964 1 543 3746

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. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 December 1999.