

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: MDE 14/029/2006**

**29 June 2006**

**Further Information on UA 152/06 (MDE 14/024/2006, 31 May 2006) - Incommunicado detention / Fear of torture and ill-treatment**

**IRAQ**

**Zakaria Yehia Al-Zuhairi (m) aged 30**

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Zakaria Yehia Al-Zuhairi, an Iraqi and Libyan citizen, was released after officials working for the Prime Minister of Iraqi Kurdistan, Nechirvan Barzani, helped to secure his release. He returned to Libya on 24 June.

Zakaria Yehia Al-Zuhairi was on a visit to Irbil in Iraqi Kurdistan when he, his mother, and his wife were abducted from in front of their hotel and detained on 25 February by the Peshmerga forces, the primary security service of the Kurdish regional government. Zakaria's mother Khalda Abdel-Qader, and wife Vianne Abdullah, were released three days later. His kidnappers allegedly asked for a ransom of USD 200,000 in order to release him.

Zakaria Yehia Al-Zuhairi was allegedly beaten regularly throughout his detention, and was kept blindfolded with his hands and feet bound tightly. The reason for his detention is not known. The President of the Kurdistan region, Mas'ud Barzani, has reportedly pledged to investigate the incident.

**No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**