

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

AI Index: MDE 14/113/2003 (Public)  
News Service No: 117  
9 May 2003

## **Iraq: Amnesty International in Basra - Field Update May 9 2003**

Amnesty International delegates visited the site of a mass grave in Abul Khasib where it is thought that dozens of persons were buried after being executed in the 1991 repression. Two men were able to identify their father's remains by the clothing on the corpses.

AI delegates continued to collect harrowing testimony from families who had suffered human rights violations in the past, documenting torture, "disappearances" and executions.

Delegates visited the site of an underground secret prison in the Iraqi oil tankers company, Basra.

Amnesty International delegates visited Basra General Hospital and interviewed a medical doctor who had been threatened by a British soldier who charged his gun and pointed it at him. The doctor had refused to issue a death certificate on the spot for a dead woman, because he said he needed to do a proper examination first.

Community and tribal leaders met with AI to discuss the overall situation in Basra. Everyone that Amnesty International delegates spoke to, pointed out that security is their prime concern, both from ordinary crimes and also to enable them to carry out their jobs without fear. Some have complained about basic services, mainly about water not being potable and about the electricity supply being unstable.

The delegation continues to document events during the war that impacted on the civilian population, one medical doctor showed delegates his house which had been destroyed by missiles.

Public Document

\*\*\*\*\*

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566  
Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW. web: <http://www.amnesty.org>

For latest human rights news view <http://news.amnesty.org>