

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 17/04/95
Distr: UA/SC

15 June 1995

Further information on UA 55/95 (MDE 17/01/95, 2 March 1995) and follow-up (MDE 17/03/95, 28 April) - Health concern / Prisoners of conscience

KUWAIT Prisoners of conscience end hunger-strike

More than 35 political prisoners, including at least 10 prisoners of conscience, are reported to have ended the hunger-strike which began on 21 February 1995. They had been protesting against their continued detention after manifestly unfair trials before the Martial Law Court in May and June 1991 and before the State Security Court in 1992.

It is not clear exactly when the hunger-strike ended. According to one report the main strike lasted about a month, although some prisoners continued to take only water and minimum nourishment for several weeks after that. In a *Reuters* report of 8 June, an opposition member of the Kuwaiti parliament, Ali al-Baghli, stated that at one stage four hunger-strikers were taken to hospital to be fed intravenously and were later returned to prison in good health. Mr al-Baghli is reported to have added, "we are still looking at what they want; we think the demands of some of them are not without merit".

This is for information only. No further action by the Urgent Action Network is requested. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.