

# URGENT ACTION

## PROTESTER DETAINED, AT RISK OF TORTURE IN IRAQ

**An Iraqi political activist, 'Ala Nabil, was detained after a protest in Baghdad on 8 April. His whereabouts are unknown and Amnesty International fears that he and other detained activists are at high risk of torture. Other protestors are known to have recently been tortured in detention.**

'Ala Nabil, a political activist in his late twenties, was one of at least five young men reported to have been detained by plain clothes security forces at about 1pm on 8 April, near Tahrir Square in Baghdad. They had just left a demonstration in Tahrir Square held to protest against unemployment, official corruption and poor social services.

At least two of the five detainees were released about two hours after their arrest. However, in addition to 'Ala Nabil, two other protesters, whose names are not known to Amnesty International, may also still be held in detention. One of the two who were released told Amnesty International that he witnessed the arrest of 'Ala Nabil shortly before he was arrested himself. He was subsequently blindfolded and taken to an unknown location, where he says he was beaten, kicked and given electric shocks with an electric prod. He does not know what happened to 'Ala Nabil.

Friends of 'Ala Nabil have not been able to contact him via his mobile phone since his detention and his whereabouts remain unknown. Amnesty International fears that 'Ala Nabil is at high risk of torture. 'Ala Nabil was previously detained by Iraqi armed forces in connection with a demonstration in Baghdad on 21 March. He was held for several hours and reportedly tortured in detention, including by being beaten with a cable.

Other protesters who were detained in recent weeks say they were severely tortured. For example, Abdel-Jabbar Shaloub Hammadi told Amnesty International that he was detained for 12 days after being arrested on 24 February, beaten and tortured, including by being tied up and suspended from the ceiling. Icy cold water was also thrown over him. Another protester, journalist and writer Hadi al-Mehdi, is reported to have been beaten, tortured with electric shocks to his feet and threatened with rape during the hours he was in detention from 25 to 26 February.

### **Please write immediately in English, Arabic or your own language:**

- Calling on the authorities to reveal the whereabouts of 'Ala Nabil and any other protesters detained with him;
- Calling for the immediate release of 'Ala Nabil and other protesters, unless they are to be promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought to trial in full conformity with international fair trial standards;
- Calling on the government to respect the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression in Iraq;
- Urging the government to order an independent investigation into these and other allegations of torture and other ill-treatment of detained protesters, make the results public, prosecute those found responsible for torture and other abuses, and ensure that victims of torture and other abuses receive full reparation.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 APRIL 2011 TO:**

Prime Minister and Acting Minister of  
Defence and Interior  
His Excellency Nuri Kamil al-Maliki Prime  
Minister  
Convention Centre (Qasr al-Ma'aridh)  
Baghdad, Iraq  
**Salutation: His Excellency**

**And copies to:**  
Minister of Justice  
His Excellency, Hassan al-Shemri  
  
Minister of Human Rights  
His Excellency, Mohammad Shayaa al-  
Sudan

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Please post appeals to the Iraqi embassy in your country but address them to the names and addresses given here.

### **Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

name      address 1 address 2 address 3 address 4 fax: fax number      email: email address      salutation: salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Abdel-Jabbar Shaloub Hammadi played an active role in the organization of the 25 February 'Day of Rage' in Baghdad. He has told Amnesty International that on 24 February he was stopped in the street in Baghdad by 30 armed men belonging to the police force. He was subsequently beaten, blindfolded and transported in a vehicle to a police building in al-Baladiyat district. He told Amnesty International that he was severely tortured, including by being suspended from the ceiling by his wrists, suspended from the ceiling while his legs and arms were tied up together, and by having icy cold water thrown over him. He was then transferred after five days to the Intelligence Department in Sahat al-Nussur district in Baghdad and subsequently released on the morning of 8 March.

Hadi al-Mehdi is a journalist and writer. On 25 February, Hadi al-Mehdi joined the 'Day of Rage' protests in Tahrir Square in Baghdad. He told Amnesty International that after the demonstration finished on 25 February, he was having lunch with three friends when at least 15 soldiers stormed into the restaurant, beat him and his three friends with their rifles and forced them into vehicles. Hadi al-Mehdi was taken to a detention centre, later identified as the former building of the Defence Ministry, and interrogated while being beaten, twice subjected to electric shocks to his feet, and threatened with rape. He was released uncharged in the early hours of 26 February.

Name: 'Ala Nabil  
Gender m/f: male  
Affiliation: protester

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**INTERNATIONAL**

