

ACT NOW

Write politely to the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government:

- Call for Walid Yunis Ahmad to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and promptly brought to trial with full fair trial guarantees, or released immediately and unconditionally.
- Call for all long-term detainees to be charged with recognizably criminal offences and given fair trials, or released without delay.
- Call for the conditions of detention to be brought into full conformity with the relevant international standards and for any detainee who alleges torture or other ill-treatment to be promptly examined by an independent medical doctor, and for the allegations to be investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially.

WRITE TO:

His Excellency
Dr Barham Salih
Prime Minister
Kurdistan Regional Government
Erbil
Republic of Iraq

email: erbil@rp.krg.org

Salutation: Your Excellency

WALID YUNIS AHMAD IRAQ

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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STOP UNLAWFUL DETENTIONS

STOP UNLAWFUL DETENTIONS IN THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

‘I haven’t seen my children for 10 years; I did not want them to see me in this terrible predicament.’

Walid Yunis Ahmad

Walid Yunis Ahmad has been detained without charge or trial for more than 10 years. He was arrested on 6 February 2000 in Erbil, capital of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region of Iraq, by members of the Asayish, the Kurdish security police. For the next three years his family did not know where he was or whether he was dead or alive.

During his enforced disappearance, Walid Yunis Ahmad was tortured. After he went on hunger strike to protest against his detention and torture, he was kept in solitary confinement. He was then moved from one prison to another without explanation. He is currently held at the Asayish headquarters in Erbil.

Walid Yunis Ahmad belongs to the minority Turkmen ethnic group in Iraq. Before his arrest he was working as a translator and programme organizer for a local radio and TV station apparently affiliated to the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan, an Islamist opposition party. Shortly before his arrest, he had attended a meeting of the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan. Afterwards, he was given a lift in a car which was then



stopped and searched by the police. The police allegedly found some explosive material and arrested Walid Yunis Ahmad, who denied any knowledge of the explosives. The driver, who was also arrested, was released three months later.

The Kurdish authorities say that they cannot prosecute Walid Yunis Ahmad as the anti-terrorism law was introduced six years after his detention and the Iraqi Penal Code does not cover terrorism offences. However, the Penal Code does proscribe acts that undermine internal or external state security. Walid Yunis Ahmad is therefore being held indefinitely without any prospect of being charged or tried, in clear violation of international law.

An Amnesty international delegation visited Walid Yunis Ahmad in prison in June 2010. He said that he greatly appreciates the campaigning by Amnesty International and its members on his behalf and that this has had an extremely positive effect, boosting his morale and helping him to keep alive his hopes that he may one day be released.

Walid Yunis Ahmad is one of thousands of people who have been detained for years without charge or trial in prisons across Iraq.