

ACT NOW

IRAQ

SAMAR SA'AD 'ABDULLAH

PLEASE CALL ON THE IRAQI AUTHORITIES TO:

- stop the execution of Samar Sa'ad 'Abdullah and of all other prisoners on death row;
- order an investigation into her allegations of torture and prosecute anyone found responsible;
- commute all death sentences and establish a moratorium on executions.

WRITE TO:

Emails for the Presidential Council are not available.

Please send appeals via the Iraqi Embassy or Iraqi Representative in your country, asking them to forward your appeals to:

President Jalal Talabani

Salutation: Your Excellency

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki

Salutation: Your Excellency

Vice-President Tariq al-Hashimi

Salutation: Your Excellency

Vice-President 'Adil 'Abdul Mahdi

Salutation: Your Excellency

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



FACING EXECUTION AFTER UNFAIR TRIAL

SAMAR SA'AD 'ABDULLAH

Samar Sa'ad 'Abdullah is 27 years old and is in **imminent danger of execution**. She was sentenced to death for murder in 2005 and the sentence was upheld in 2007.

Fears for her life have been heightened since June 2009, when the authorities transferred her and eight other women condemned to death to the 5th section (*al-Shu'ba al-Khamisa*) of al-Kadhimiya Prison in Baghdad, where prisoners are held before they are hanged. At least **three women have been executed** since June 2009.

Samar Sa'ad 'Abdullah says that she was **tortured by police into “confessing”** to the murder of her uncle, his wife and one of their children in Baghdad, but that in fact her fiancé killed her relatives to rob her uncle. It appears that **her fiancé has never been arrested**.

During her trial she told the judge that after her arrest she was **beaten with a cable, beaten on the soles of her feet (*falaqa*) and given electric shocks** at Hay al-Khadhra police station in Baghdad to force her to admit to the murders. The judge did not order an investigation into her torture allegations and sentenced her to death after just two hearings.

Her father, Sa'ad 'Abdel Majid 'Abd al-Karim, told Amnesty International that the trial lasted less than two days and that he had been **barred from the court**. He also said that one of his daughter's **lawyers**, Amal 'Abdel-Amir al-Zubaidi, was **ordered out of the court** by the judge.

Since the reintroduction of the death penalty by the Iraqi government in August 2004, after a short period in which it was suspended by the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority, at least **1,000 people** have been **sentenced to death** and **scores** have been **executed**.



After death sentences are confirmed by the Cassation Court, they are referred to the Presidential Council – Iraq's President and two Vice-Presidents – for ratification and implementation. **President Jalal Talabani opposes the death penalty** and delegates his ratification powers to the two Vice-Presidents.

There are **no official figures** for the number of prisoners facing execution, although on 9 March 2009 the Iraqi Supreme Judicial Council told Amnesty International that the Presidential Council had ratified the death sentences of 128 people, **12 of whom were executed on 3 May**.

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