

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 137/05 (MDE 14/014/2005, 25 May 2005) Death penalty/Fear of imminent executions

IRAQ **Ahmad al-Jaf (m), aged 30**
 'Uday Dawud al-Dulaimi (m), aged 25
 Jasim 'Abbas (m), aged 44
 Tahsin 'Ali Mattar (m)

Ahmad al-Jaf, Jasim 'Abbas and 'Uday Dawud al-Dulaimi could be executed at any time, after Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Ja'afari reportedly declared: "The President has signed three death sentences, and the next few days will see the first executions in al-Kut."

The three men were sentenced to death on 22 May by a court in the town of al-Kut, about 170km southeast of Baghdad, having been found guilty of kidnapping, killing of policemen and rape of women. The three are said to be members of the armed group *Ansar al-Sunna*.

Tahsin 'Ali Mattar reportedly appealed against his death sentence, which was handed down in a separate case on 25 May in Babil, south of Baghdad. The result of his appeal is not known.

Before he was selected as President of Iraq, Jalal Talabani declared his opposition to the use of the death penalty in a number of media interviews.

Since the new Iraqi government was formed in early May 2005, at least 50 people have been sentenced to death.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- expressing concern that the death sentences against Ahmad al-Jaf, Jasim 'Abbas and 'Uday Dawud al-Dulaimi, have been ratified by the President, and that the three are facing imminent execution;
- condemning all abuses by armed groups, including kidnapping, rape and killing of civilians, and urging that those responsible for these abuses be brought to justice in trials that fall within international standards for fair trial and that do not impose the death penalty;
- asking the authorities for details of the trial and appeal of Tahsin 'Ali Mattar;
- reminding President Jalal Talabani of his stated opposition to the death penalty, and urging him to ensure the death sentences are not carried out.

APPEALS TO: Fax numbers and e-mail addresses for the Iraqi authorities are not available. Please send appeals via the Iraqi embassy or diplomatic representative in your country, asking them to forward your appeals to:

President of the Republic of Iraq
Jalal Talabani

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Ask for the Iraqi embassy or diplomatic representative to send copies to the Acting Human Rights Minister, Nasreen Barwari.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 September 2005.