

URGENT ACTION

SENTENCE COMPLETED, BUT NOT RELEASED

A man called Walid Yunis Ahmad is being held in a prison in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq more than three months after he was due to be released.

An Iraqi man, **Walid Yunis Ahmad**, also known as Abu Khubeib, completed a prison sentence in March but has not been released. The authorities have not told him, his family or his lawyers why he has been kept in prison, or of any new charges brought against him.

He has been kept in Zerka prison in the city of Dohuk in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Amnesty International wrote to the Kurdistan Regional Government on 14 May asking why Walid Yunis Ahmad had been kept in prison after he had completed his sentence, but received no answer. During a meeting with an Amnesty International delegation visiting the KRI in 2010 a senior government official told the delegation that despite not having any formal charges against him, Walid Yunis Ahmad could never be released because he was considered as a dangerous person

Walid Yunis Ahmad had been sentenced on 17 March 2011 to five years in prison for "sending orders and instructions from prison to his followers in Kirkuk and Mosul to carry out terrorist attacks in Dohuk in 2009". He had been arrested in February 2000 and spent the first three years of his imprisonment in conditions amounting to enforced disappearance, during which period he says he was repeatedly tortured. He continued to be held without charge until 2010, when he was charged for the first time. The court that convicted and sentenced him took into account the time he had spent in pre-trial detention after his investigation started in February 2010, but not the previous 10 years that he had been held without charge.

Amnesty International considers the charge brought against Walid Yunis Ahmad and used to sentence him was fabricated and that he received an unfair trial when convicted in 2011. The charge was based on information said to have been provided by "secret informants" who were not identified and who did not appear in court to give evidence or to be questioned by Walid Yunis Ahmad's defence lawyer. No evidence was produced of the letters that Walid Yunis Ahmad had supposedly sent from prison giving instructions for terrorist attacks.

Please write immediately in English, Arabic or Kurdish:

- Calling on the authorities to release Walid Yunis Ahmad immediately;
- Calling for an independent and impartial investigation into his enforced disappearance and allegations of torture, prolonged arbitrary detention, and the apparent fabrication of serious charges against him,
- Calling on them to ensure justice and reparation for him and his family

PLEASE SEND APPEALS THE KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE IN YOUR COUNTRY BEFORE 13 AUGUST 2015, ADDRESSED TO:

President

His Excellency Masoud Barzani
President
Erbil
Kurdistan Regional Government
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

His Excellency Sinan Abdulkhaleq
Chalabi
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Erbil
Kurdistan Regional Government
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

Karim Sinjari
Minister for the Interior
Erbil
Kurdistan Regional Government
Salutation: Your Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:
Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 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

Walid Yunis Ahmad was arrested on 6 February 2000 in Erbil, capital of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region of Iraq, by the *Asayish*, the Kurdish security agency, and subjected to enforced disappearance. For the next three years his family did not know where he was or even whether he was alive.

Walid Yunis Ahmad has said that he was tortured during these three years. After he went on hunger strike in protest, he was kept in solitary confinement. He was then moved between prisons without explanation. He is now held in Zerka prison in Dohuk, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

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 an Islamist opposition party, the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan. 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 the police stopped and searched. The police claimed they had found explosive material in the car and arrested Walid Yunis Ahmad, who denied any knowledge of the explosives. The driver, who was also arrested, was released three months later.

An Amnesty international delegation visited Walid Yunis Ahmad in prison in June 2010. Amnesty International has been campaigning on behalf of Walid Yunis Ahmad for over five years.

Walid Yunis Ahmad was previously the subject of UA 70/11 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde14/010/2011/en/>).

Name: Walid Yunis Ahmad

Gender m/f: m

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