

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/062/2005

13 April 2005

Further Information on UA 267/04 (AMR 51/137/2004, 17 September 2004) and follow-up (AMR 51/052/2005, 10 March 2005) - Prisoner of Conscience/health concern

USA Abdullah William Webster (m)

Abdullah Webster, imprisoned in the USA on account of his conscientious objection to the war in Iraq, is now receiving appropriate medical care. He had not been getting the regular blood tests required to check for the side effects of a drug he needs to take for high blood cholesterol.

Shortly after the last update to this UA, a medical enquiry was set up into Abdullah Webster's medical condition and an Army major took over the supervision of his medical care. Abdullah Webster has now had a further blood test which showed no abnormalities and no apparent permanent damage to his liver. He has also been taken off the medication and the prison authorities are looking into alternative medication, with less severe side effects, to regulate his high cholesterol.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Abdullah Webster is the second serving soldier imprisoned by the US authorities solely on the basis of his conscientious objection to the war in Iraq. Amnesty International adopted both men as prisoners of conscience. Camilo Mejia was released on 15 February, after serving nine months of a one-year sentence for desertion, handed down in May 2004 after he refused to return to his unit in Iraq. His sentence was reduced on grounds of good conduct, and he is now back at home with his family. (See UA 190/04, AMR 51/092/2004, 3 June 2004, and follow-up)

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

- welcoming the improvement in Abdullah Webster's medical care;
- calling for Abdullah Webster to be released immediately and unconditionally, with restoration of his pension and other benefits, and pointing out that Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

Raymond F. Dubois
Acting Secretary of the Army
102 Army Pentagon
Room 3E588
Washington DC 20310-0102
USA

Fax: +1 703 697 0720
Salutation: Dear Secretary

Lieutenant Commander Anthony Cruz
Commanding Officer
Fort Lewis Corrections Facility
Fort Lewis. Bldg. # 1450
Washington 98433
USA

Fax: + 1 253 967-6579
Email: RCF@Lewis.Army.MIL
Salutation: Dear Lieutenant Commander

COPIES TO:

Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington DC 20301
USA

Fax: + 1 703 697 8339
Email via: <http://www.defenselink.mil/faq/comment.html>

and to diplomatic representatives of the USA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 May 2005.