

UA 72/01

Incommuni**IRAQ**Hussam Mohammad Jawad, aged 67**Iyyad Jihad Shams al-Din, aged 63**

Two men have reportedly been arrested by the Iraqi authorities and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Hussam Mohammad Jawad, a retired medical doctor, and his brother-in-law, Iyyad Jihad Shams al-Din, a lecturer at a technological university in Baghdad, are said to be held incommunicado. It is not known when they were arrested or where they are held.

The exact reasons for their arrests are also not known. However, it is believed that they may have been detained in an attempt to pressurize two of their relatives, who are living abroad, into returning to Iraq. Su'ad Shams al-Din, a medical doctor and the wife of Hussam Mohammad Jawad, has applied for asylum in a European country. She fled from Iraq after being arrested and ill-treated in 1999 on suspicion of having links with an opposition group. She was detained for several weeks and regularly beaten on the soles of her feet before escaping by bribing prison guards. Her younger brother, a scientist, also lives abroad.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Relatives of people who have fled Iraq or are involved in anti-government activities abroad have previously been detained in an apparent attempt to put pressure on those abroad to return to the country, or to cease their anti-government political activities.

Torture and ill-treatment is systematic and widespread in Iraq, despite its prohibition under the Iraqi Constitution and under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Anti-government political suspects are especially at risk, and are routinely tortured or ill-treated in custody. Torture is used as a punishment or to extract information, and victims have no access to lawyers and relatives.

The methods of torture that have been reported include beating detainees while they are suspended by the limbs, applying electric shocks to various parts of the body, *falaqa* (beating on the soles of the feet), extinguishing cigarettes on the body, extracting finger and toenails, gouging out the ears, and rape. Psychological torture include mock executions, forcing the detainee to watch others being tortured and solitary confinement.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, Arabic or your own language:

- expressing concern that Hussam Mohammad Jawad and Iyyad Jihad Shams al-Din are being held incommunicado;
- asking why they have been arrested;
- seeking assurances that they are being treated humanely and have access to lawyers of their own choosing, their families and any medical care they may require;
- urging that they be immediately released if they have been arrested solely for their kinship to people living abroad.

APPEALS TO:

H.E. President Saddam Hussain
President of the Republic
Presidential Palace
Karadat Mariam
Baghdad, Iraq

Telegrams: President Hussain, Baghdad, Iraq

Telexes: 212299 alqasr ik

Salutation: Your Excellency

H.E. Mundhir Ibrahim al-Shawi
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Baghdad, Iraq

Telegrams: Justice Minister al-Shawi, Baghdad, Iraq

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Iraq accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 May 2001.