

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 14/04/99

EXTRA 67/99

Fear of torture or ill-treatment / Possible prisoners of

Conscience

IRAQI KURDISTAN Kawa Najm al-Din 'Abd al-Karim  
Qader Hama Amin  
Dia' Khalil 'Aziz  
'Abdallah 'Abbas  
'Abed Dah Satran  
Bistun Kamal Ramadhan

---

The six men named above have been tortured since their detention in April 1999.

The men are activists of the Iraqi Workers' Communist Party (IWCP) and were reportedly arrested in mid-April by members of the *Parastin*, the security and intelligence apparatus of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

They were reportedly arrested in Arbil while distributing leaflets highlighting the plight of families expelled from Kirkuk to Kurdistan, poverty in Kurdistan and information critical of the Kurdish administration. They were allegedly tortured in the *Parastin* headquarters in Arbil and during interrogation asked to provide names of active members of the IWCP. They are reportedly still being detained there.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since the end of the Gulf War in 1991, Iraqi Kurdistan has remained under the control of the two main Kurdish political parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Amnesty International has in the past received reports that IWCP activists have been targeted either by the security forces or by other groups in the area controlled by the KDP.

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

- expressing concern at reports that Kawa Najm al-Din 'Abd al-Karim, Qader Hama Amin, Dia' Khalil 'Aziz, 'Abdallah 'Abbas, 'Abed Dah Satran and Bistun Kamal Ramadhan have been tortured and ill-treated in detention;
- urging that these reports be immediately investigated and anyone found responsible brought to justice;
- seeking assurances that all detainees are being treated humanely;
- urging that all the detainees be granted immediate access to their families, legal counsel and medical assistance if needed;
- requesting clarification of the reasons and legal basis for their arrests;
- urging that the detainees be immediately released unless they are promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought to trial in accordance with international standards;
- asking for their immediate and unconditional release if they are being held solely for their non-violent activities.

#### APPEALS TO:

Massoud Barzani  
President  
Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP)

Office of the President  
Salahaddin  
Kurdistan  
Iraq

**Telegrams: President, Kurdistan Democratic Party, Kurdistan, Iraq**

**Salutation: Dear Mr Barzani**

Massoud Barzani  
c/o KDP - Europe  
PO Box 7725  
London  
SW1V 3ZD  
United Kingdom

**Fax + 44 171 931 7765**

**Salutation: Dear Mr Barzani**

Massoud Barzani  
c/o KDP - USA  
1015 18<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Ste. 704  
Washington DC 20036  
United States of America

**Fax + 1 202 331 9506**

**Salutation: Dear Mr Barzani**

**COPIES TO:** local offices of the KDP, if present in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 July 1999.