

PUBLIC

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Fear of t

IRAQ Ahlam Khadom Rammahi, (f) age 39, British citizen

Mrs Ahlam Khadom Rammahi, a British citizen, was arrested in Baghdad on 5 August 1999 and her whereabouts are now unknown. Amnesty International fears that she may be at risk of torture.

Ahlam Khadom Rammahi, a housewife, left Iraq with her husband in 1982. On 28 July 1999 she travelled from London to Iraq to visit her sick mother, whom she had not seen since she left the country. On 5 August, two security men went to Ahlam's mother's house in al-Najaf to arrest her. However, Ahlam had already left for Baghdad to see relatives. The security men arrested her brother and took him in their car to Baghdad to show them the way to the relatives' house. When they arrived at the house they arrested Ahlam and released the brother. No reason was given for her arrest and since that time her whereabouts have remained unknown despite all the efforts made by her family to locate her.

Ahlam Khadom Rammahi is not reported to be involved in any political opposition activities. She travelled to Iraq using her British passport. She is the mother of six children, the youngest of whom is 10 years old. Torture is used systematically against detainees in Iraq. The most common methods known to Amnesty International are electric shocks to various parts of the body, long periods of suspension by the limbs, cigarette burns and solitary confinement.

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

- seeking information as to the reasons for the arrest of Ahlam Khadom Rammahi and her exact whereabouts;
- urging that she be humanely treated and given access to a lawyer;
- asking for her immediate release if she is not promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence.

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. Muhammad Zammam 'Abd al-Razzaq
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Baghdad, Iraq

Telegrams: Interior Minister al-Razzaq, Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

H.E. Shabib Lazem al-Maliki
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice

Baghdad, Iraq

Telegrams: Justice Minister al-Maliki, Baghdad, Iraq

Salutation: Your Excellency

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Baghdad, Iraq

Fax: + 964 1 543 3746

Salutation: Your Excellency

Due to a limited and irregular postal service to Iraq, if possible please send telegrams and telexes. Alternatively you may write directly to Iraq's diplomatic representative in your country.

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 13 October 1999.