

PUBLIC

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Incommunicado detention/fear of torture

09 May 2005

IRAQ

Rebwar Arif (m) in his 40s - Secretary General of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees

Rebwar Arif has been held incommunicado since 5 May. Amnesty International fears that he may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment as he is believed to be detained at the headquarters of the *Asayish* (security forces) in Sulaimaniya, northern Iraq.

Rebwar Arif was arrested by members of the *Asayish* on 5 May after he handed himself over to the authorities. The previous day he had reportedly given a speech during a students' demonstration in Sulaimaniya, where he spoke critically of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), one of the two leading Kurdish political parties controlling an area in northern Iraq.

Members of the *Asayish* sought to arrest Rebwar Arif after the demonstration on 4 May, but when they could not find him they arrested his brother Diyar and another person. The two were released when Rebwar Arif handed himself over on 5 May.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 1991 some areas of northern Iraq have been controlled by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the PUK. These Kurdish controlled areas have enjoyed large autonomy and continue to do so after the 30 January 2005 elections in Iraq which saw a National Assembly and a Kurdish Assembly elected. The Secretary General of the PUK, Jalal Talabani, was selected as President of Iraq on 7 April.

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

- seeking clarification of the reasons for the arrest and detention of Rebwar Arif;
- seeking assurances that he is being treated humanely and not being subjected to torture or other ill-treatment;
- urging that he be given access to lawyers, relatives, and any medical assistance if necessary;
- calling for him to be released immediately unless he is charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

Mr. Jalal Talabani
President
Republic of Iraq
Convention Centre (Qasr al-Ma'aridh)
Baghdad, Iraq

Salutation : Your Excellency

If you have a fax, please send appeals via the PUK offices abroad and ask them to be forwarded to President Talabani:

- PUK office in United Kingdom: **fax: +44 20 7 840 0630**
- PUK office in United States: **fax:+1 202 637 2723**
- PUK office in Germany: **fax: +49 30 863 987 94**
- PUK office in France: **fax:+33 1 409 00282**
- PUK office in Italy: **fax:+39 06 50 37120 (if someone answers ask for the fax line)**

- PUK office in the EU: **fax:+31 703 895832 (if someone answers ask for the fax line)**
- PUK office in Sweden: **fax: +46 8 917693 (if someone answers ask for the fax line)**

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 20 June 2005.