

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 14/11/00

31 August 2000

Further information on UA 219/00 (MDE 14/08/00, 19 July 2000) and follow-ups (MDE 14/09/00, 25 July 2000 and MDE 14/10/00, 16 August 2000) - Incommunicado detention/fear of torture/forcible expulsion/fear of forcible return/"disappearance"

IRAQ/IRAQI KURDISTANKarim Latif

Kamran Latif
Sadiq Nikbin (Iranian national)
Arsh Baqri (Iranian national)
Kuchar
Nidhal Ahmad
Shazin Heersh

New names: 'Isam Samir 'Awda (Palestinian)

Falah Ahmad]

Saman Sattar]
Sardar Mohammad]
Na'ib Fa'iq]IWCP members
'Omar Mohammad]
Faridun Hussain Zadah]

(Iranian National)

Azad Ahmad]
Bakhtiar Nadir]
Anwar Nuri]

Brothers Karim and Kamran Latif have been released, reportedly on bail. They are said to have been forced to sign an undertaking to give up all political activities, and relinquish their membership of the Iraqi Workers' Communist Party (IWCP).

Sadiq Nikbin is said to have been moved to a prison controlled by the PUK security and intelligence service, *Dezgay Zanyari*. He may still face forcible return to Iran.

A Palestinian, 'Isam Samir 'Awda, has been held since 24 July, reportedly because his brother is an IWCP member.

PUK security forces are said to have arrested nine more IWCP members, named above, between 24 and 26 August. Their whereabouts are now unknown.

There is still no information about the fate and whereabouts of Kuchar, Nidhal Ahmad, Shazin Heersh, the 12 women who were sheltering in a women's refuge in Sulaimaniya, as well as all those who were arrested on 21 July and 10 August.

The PUK offices in Germany and the UK have replied to Urgent Action network appeal writers. They say that for security reasons the authorities in Sulaimaniya asked all political parties to vacate their offices and move to other areas. All parties agreed except the IWCP. The PUK confirmed that their security forces had shot dead five people in a car, claiming the car had failed to stop at a check-point. They claim the five opened fire, injuring two people, and were shot dead when the security forces returned fire. An investigation has apparently been launched. In their letters the PUK listed 16 IWCP members they said had never been arrested. Among them were eight people who have appeared

in this UA: Kawa 'Abdullah, Amanj 'Othman, Yusuf Mohammad, 'Ammar Sharif, Taha Baha al-Din, Tahar Hassan, Saman Karim and Fu'ad Sadiq.

The PUK's responses do not address a number of Amnesty International's concerns. They give no information about the fate of Nidhal Ahmad, Kuchar, Shazin Heersh, any of the IWCP members reportedly arrested on 21 July, 9 and 10 August, or the 12 women said to have been forced out of the women's refuge on 21 July. They say nothing about the Iranian nationals, Arsh Baqri and Sadiq Nikbin, who were facing forcible return to Iran.

Amnesty International has so far received no reply to a letter sent to the PUK leader on 26 July.

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

- asking why 'Isam Samir 'Awda was arrested on 24 July, and why nine IWCP members were arrested between 24 and 26 August;
- urging that they be immediately released if they were arrested solely because they are IWCP members, or related to IWCP members;
- expressing concern that in their responses to Urgent Action appeals the PUK authorities said nothing about Nidhal Ahmad, Kuchar, Shazin Heersh, Sadiq Nikbin, Arsh Baqri, the 12 women or those IWCP members said to have been arrested since 13 July.

APPEALS TO:

Jalal Talabani
 President
 Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK)
 Sulaimaniya
 Kurdistan
 Iraq
Telegrams: President, PUK, Kurdistan, Iraq
Salutation: Dear Mr Talabani

Jalal Talabani
 c/o PUK United Kingdom
 First Floor, 5 Glasshouse Walk,
 Vauxhall
 London SE11 5ES
 UK
Faxes: + 44 20 7840 0630
Salutation: Dear Mr Talabani

Jalal Talabani
 c/o PUK USA
 444 N. Capitol Street, NW, Suite 837
 Washington D. C. 20001
 USA
Faxes: + 1 202 6372723
Salutation: Dear Mr Talabani

COPIES TO: Office of the PUK, if there is one in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 October 2000.