

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 14/013/2005

UA 129/05

Fear of torture/ incommunicado detention

19 May 2005

IRAQ

'Abd al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman (m), aged 70, *Imam* (religious leader)
Usama 'Abd al-Rahman Ahmad (m), aged 34, teacher
Maymun 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd al-Rahman (m), aged 31, shopkeeper

'Abd al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, his son, Usama 'Abd al-Rahman Ahmad and son-in-law Maymun 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd al-Rahman have been held in incommunicado detention since their arrest on 11 May. They are believed to be detained at the headquarters of the *al-Istikhbarat* (Intelligence Directorate) in Basra, southern Iraq, where they may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

The three men were arrested at home by members of the Iraqi security forces at dawn on 11 May. They were reportedly stripped naked, blindfolded, tied up, and taken away in a car. Prior to the arrest, the security forces searched the house for weapons, breaking windows and doors. In the course of the search, the women in the house were hit with guns, and the men beaten. No weapons were found.

The three men, who are said to not be politically active, are Sunni Muslims. They live in Basra, which along with all provinces in southern Iraq, is dominated by Shi'a Muslims. Sunni Muslims and other religious minorities in these areas have reportedly been targeted for abuse by radical Shi'a Muslim armed groups. It is alleged that in the past few days in Basra many Sunni Muslims have been arrested, reportedly on the basis of their religion.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The body known as the "Intelligence Directorate" was reportedly formed at the end of 2003 and is allegedly controlled by the Badr organization. The Badr organization is the armed wing of the main Shi'a Muslim political group, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI). Several people are said to have been held incommunicado and tortured at the headquarters of the "Intelligence Directorate" in Basra. (See UA 96/04, MDE 14/004/2004, 4 March 2004)

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

- expressing concern for the safety of 'Abd al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, his son, Usama 'Abd al-Rahman Ahmad and son-in-law Maymun 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd al-Rahman, who were arrested on 11 May and are being held in incommunicado detention, reportedly at the *al-Istikhbarat* (Intelligence Directorate) in Basra;
- seeking clarification of the reasons for the arrest and detention of the three men, including details of any charges against them;
- seeking confirmation of their place of detention;
- urging that the men be given access to lawyers, family, and any medical treatment necessary;
- expressing concern that the men, and female members of their family, were allegedly beaten and ill-treated prior to their arrest, and seeking assurances that they are being treated humanely in detention and not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- calling for an investigation into the allegations of ill-treatment.

APPEALS TO: Fax numbers and e-mail addresses for the Iraqi authorities are not available. Please send appeals via the Iraqi embassy or diplomatic representative in your country, asking them to forward your appeals to:

President of the Republic of Iraq

Jalal Talabani

Salutation: Your Excellency

Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq

Dr. Ibrahim al-Ja'afari

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Ask for the Iraqi embassy or diplomatic representative to send copies to:

- Human Rights Minister

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 June 2005.