

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture/fear of death penalty

8 September 1993

IRAQ:

'Abd al-Karim Hani

Majid Adham

Jassem Mukhlis

Sufian Mukhlis

Amnesty International is deeply concerned for the lives of the above mentioned people as they are at great risk of torture, "disappearance" in custody or execution. The precise reason for the detention of these individuals is not known, but their arrest forms part of a wider crackdown which began in the aftermath of the Gulf War, targeting sectors of Iraqi society traditionally thought to be loyal to the regime, the majority of whom are Sunni Arabs.

Most of the arrests took place in the second half of August, and were carried out by security and intelligence personnel. Those detained include retired army officers, prominent economists and lawyers, and former government officials. Among them are: 'Abd al-Karim Hani, a former Minister of Labour and Social Affairs; Majid Adham, a prominent expert in Iraq's oil sector; and Jassem Mukhlis, a well-known lawyer from Tikrit together with his cousin, Sufian Mukhlis. None of them were known to have been associated with any Iraqi opposition movement.

The fate and whereabouts of these and other detainees have remained unknown since their arrest.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Scores of prominent people were arrested in Iraq in August, according to information received by Amnesty International. The majority of those detained are believed to be Sunni Arabs, including individuals from President Saddam Hussein's home town of Tikrit where many of his strongest supporters come from.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telexes and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern about the arrest of 'Abd al-Karim Hani, Majid Adham, Jassem Mukhlis, Sufian Mukhlis and scores of others in August 1993;
- requesting details of the reasons and legal basis for their arrest and continued detention, and details of any legal proceedings being followed in their cases;
- urging that their places of detention be made known, and that they be granted prompt and regular access to their families, lawyers and doctors.

- urging that the detainees be immediately released unless they are to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence.

APPEALS TO

1) H.E. President Saddam Hussain
President of the Republic
Presidential Palace
Karadat Mariam
Baghdad, Iraq
Telexes: 212299 alqasr ik
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) H.E. Ahmad Hussain Khudayyer al-Samarra'i
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Presidential Palace
Karadat Mariam
Baghdad, Iraq
Telexes: 212299 alqasrik
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) H.E. Watban Ibrahim al-Hassan
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) H.E. Shabib Lazem al-Maliki
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

Regular postal services to Iraq have been suspended since the imposition of UN sanctions in 1990. However, it appears that recently postal services to Iraq have resumed in some countries on a limited basis. **Before sending appeals, please check with the postal services in your country to find out what services are available.** If you cannot write directly to Baghdad, send appeals to Iraq's diplomatic representative in your country.

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 October 1993.