

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: MDE 14/027/2008**

**11 November 2008**

**UA 311/08**      **Death penalty**  
**IRAQ**            **Riyadh Jasim Mohammed (m)**  
                     **Mohammed Sultan (m)**  
                     **'Omar Rahmatullah (m)**  
                     **Yusef Jadu' (m)**

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Riyadh Jasim Mohammed, Mohammed Sultan, 'Omar Rahmatullah and Yusef Jadu' were sentenced to death by a criminal court in the Kurdistan region of Iraq on 6 November.

The four men were convicted of being responsible for a car bomb explosion outside the Palace Hotel in the city of Sulaimaniya on 10 March 2008. The explosion killed one person and injured forty others. The four were prosecuted under the Anti-Terrorism Law of 2005 for the Kurdish region and the Iraqi Penal Code.

If the death sentences against Riyadh Jasim Mohammed, Mohammed Sultan, 'Omar Rahmatullah and Yusef Jadu' are upheld by the Cassation Court, they will be referred to the president of the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) for ratification.

Four other people were acquitted for the same crime for lack of evidence and ordered to be released by the court.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) administers and has jurisdiction over three provinces in northern Iraq, Erbil, Sulaimaniya and Dohuk. The majority of government posts are held by the two leading parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Up until September 2006, when eleven people were executed in Erbil province, the death penalty was rarely used in the Kurdish region. In May 2007, four more executions were carried out in Erbil. Death sentences are ratified by the KRG president before they are carried out.

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

- recognizing the duty and responsibility of governments to bring to justice those responsible for committing crimes, including bomb attacks, but insisting that the death penalty is a violation of the right to life and the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment;
- calling on the authorities to commute the death sentences against Riyadh Jasim Mohammed, Mohammed Sultan, 'Omar Rahmatullah and Yusef Jadu' if they are confirmed by the Court of Cassation;
- calling on the authorities to introduce an immediate moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty completely;

**APPEALS TO:**

**IMPORTANT: please send appeals to these ministers via the KRG offices overseas (list sent separately). You can also target them directly where contact information is provided.**

President

Mas'ud Barzani

Kurdish Regional Government

**Salutation:     Your Excellency**

Prime Minister

Nechirvan Idris Barzani

**Salutation:     Your Excellency**

Minister for the Interior

Osman Hajy Mohamood

**Email:           interior\_minister\_sul@yahoo.com**

**Salutation:     Your Excellency**

Minister of Justice

Farooq Jamil Sadiq

**Email:           dad@mojkurdistan.com**

**Salutation:     Your Excellency**

Minister of Human Rights

Dr Yousif M. Aziz

**Salutation:     Your Excellency**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 December 2008.