

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture / Fear of refoulement

10 March 1995

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Sheikh 'Abd al-Mun'im al-'Ali, Iraqi national
'Abd al-Jalil 'Ilwan

Sheikh 'Abd al-Mun'im al-'Ali and 'Abd al-Jalil 'Ilwan are reported to be in incommunicado detention in the State Security headquarters in Abu Dhabi, where Amnesty International fears they may face torture or other ill-treatment. The organization also fears that Sheikh 'Abd al-Mun'im al-'Ali, an Iraqi national living in exile in the United Arab Emirates since 1980, may be sent back to Iraq, where he would be at risk of imprisonment, torture, the death penalty, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution.

The two men were arrested in mid-January, following raids on their homes in Sharjah by members of the State Security police, who reportedly confiscated some of their books, personal papers and other documents. Amnesty International is concerned that they may have been arrested solely for the non-violent expression of their beliefs. If so, Amnesty International would consider them to be prisoners of conscience.

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

- calling for Sheikh 'Abd al-Mun'im al-'Ali and 'Abd al-Jalil 'Ilwan to be allowed immediate access to their families and lawyers of their choosing;
- seeking assurances that they are not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment, and that they are being allowed access to medical treatment if necessary;
- seeking clarification of the reasons for their arrest and any charges brought against them, together with any trial proceedings which may have taken place.
- seeking assurances that Sheikh 'Abd al-Mun'im al-'Ali will not be forcibly returned to Iraq where he will be at risk of the death penalty or other human rights violations.

APPEALS TO

His Highness
al-Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates
Ruler of Abu Dhabi
Manhal Palace
PO Box 280
Abu Dhabi
The United Arab Emirates
Telexes: 22220 PALACE EM
Telegrams: President Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Salutation: Your Highness

His Excellency
Dr Abdulla bin Omran Taryam
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 753
Abu Dhabi
The United Arab Emirates
Faxes: + 9712 664944

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency
General Dr Mohd Saeed al-Badi
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
PO Box 398
Abu Dhabi
The United Arab Emirates

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Faxes: + 9712 461621
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

diplomatic representatives of the United Arab Emirates accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your Section office, if sending appeals after 27 April 1995.