

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/071/2005

10 May 2005

Further Information on UA 267/04 (AMR 51/137/2004, 17 September 2004) and follow-ups (AMR 51/052/2005, 10 March 2005, AMR 51/062/2005, 13 April 2005) Prisoner of Conscience/Health concern

USA

Abdullah William Webster (m)

Abdullah Webster was released from prison on 30 April. His release, on grounds of "good conduct", comes three months before the completion of his 14-month sentence. He is back at home with his family in the USA and has been able to spend time with his wife and two-year-old daughter.

He had been sentenced by US court-martial to 14 months' imprisonment for refusing to participate in the war in Iraq on the basis of his religious and moral beliefs. Amnesty International considered him to be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned for his conscientious objection to participating in war. An appeal against his conviction is still pending.

Abdullah Webster has sent his sincere thanks to all those who sent appeals on his behalf. He believes that these appeals were instrumental in securing his early release. While in detention he received hundreds of letters of support from around the world and he has stated that these letters kept him strong while in detention.

No further action is required from the UA network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.