

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 14/01/96

UA 17/96 Fear of "disappearance", torture and execution 26 January 1996

IRAQ Ahmad Salim, shop keeper
Haidar 'Abd al-Jabar, student
Falih Maktuf, lawyer
Ahmad 'Abd al-Sattar, businessman
'Ali Talib, transport worker
Hazim Mun'im, construction worker
Sa'id Kadhim Ahmad, university worker
Azhar 'Adnan, soldier
'Adil
plus three others

Amnesty International fears that the 12 individuals listed above are at risk of "disappearance", torture and execution. All are reported to be members of the banned Iraqi Workers' Communist Party (IWCP) and are believed to have been arrested between October and December 1995.

Amnesty International does not know the exact reasons for their arrest, but the detainees are said to have been suspected of campaigning against the re-election of President Saddam Hussain in the presidential referendum of 15 October 1995. Following the referendum, hundreds of people were reportedly arrested in various parts of the country, particularly in al-Ramadi province, Baghdad, Basra and Karbala'. Those targeted for arrest were believed to have been suspected of having cast their vote against the re-election of President Saddam Hussain. Most of them are believed to be still held.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The death penalty is imposed in Iraq for a wide range of criminal and political offences. Certain non-violent political offences such as double membership in political parties, political activity in the army and the refusal of an individual to divulge his/her political activities, are also punishable by death. Although Iraq's Penal Code does not provide for the death penalty as a mandatory punishment for membership of a banned political party, members of banned political parties and other suspected government opponents have been executed in the past for their political activities.

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

- requesting details of the whereabouts of the 12 reported members of the Iraqi Workers' Communist Party (naming some or all), detained in connection with the presidential referendum of 15 October 1995;
- seeking assurances that they are being treated humanely in accordance with international standards;
- requesting details of the charges against them and the legal procedures followed in their cases;
- urging their immediate release unless they are to be charged with recognisable criminal offences;
- requesting details of any other people detained in connection with the referendum.

APPEALS TO:

- 1) H.E. President Saddam Hussain
President of the Republic

Presidential Palace
Karadat Mariam
Baghdad, Iraq

Telexes: 212299 alqasr ik
Telegrams: President Hussain, Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) H.E. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Baghdad, Iraq

Telexes: 212201
Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister al-Sahhaf, Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) H.E. Muhammad Zamman 'Abd al-Razzaq
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Baghdad, Iraq

Telegrams: Interior Minister al-Hassan, Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

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

Telegrams: Justice Minister al-Maliki, Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

Regular postal services to Iraq have been suspended since the imposition of sanctions in 1990. However, it appears that 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 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 25 March 1996.