

URGENT ACTION

IRAQI MEN DETAINED INCOMMUNICADO

Four men arrested over the past few weeks are being held incommunicado. At the end of April a local TV channel broadcast a programme which accused the men of involvement in terrorism-related offences. They are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

On 20 March former army officer **Nabhan 'Adel Hamdi** was arrested at a relative's plant nursery in Ramadi, 100km west of the capital, Baghdad. On about 22 March at about midday, **Mu'ad Muhammad 'Abed** was arrested at the Mawarid Primary School in Fallujah, where he is a teacher. **'Amer Ahmad Kassar**, a vocational trainee, was arrested at his home in Ramadi on 3 April. All three men are in their late 20s or early 30s.

Starting on 24 April, the television station al-Anbar broadcast a programme in which the three men together with other detainees were accused of membership in an armed group and of involvement in terrorism-related offences. Interviews containing self-incriminating statements by the detainees were shown in this programme. Relatives who saw it told Amnesty International that the detainees appeared to have made these statements under duress.

Nabhan 'Adel Hamdi, Mu'ad Muhammad 'Abed, 'Amer Ahmad Kassar and a fourth detainee who appeared with them in the television programme are believed to be held by the Anti-Crime Directorate in Ramadi. Relatives of the detainees have told Amnesty International that neither relatives nor lawyers have been allowed access to them.

In the last few years, hundreds of detainees have been shown on Iraqi television channels making "confessions" admitting responsibility for various terrorism-related offences. These "confessions" have generally been extracted under torture and other ill-treatment. Many people were convicted by Iraq's Central Criminal Court on the basis of such "confessions". Under Article 14(g) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Iraq is a state party, no one should be "compelled to testify against himself or to confess guilt".

Please write immediately in English or Arabic:

- Urging the authorities to disclose immediately the whereabouts of Nabhan 'Adel Hamdi, Mu'ad Muhammad 'Abed, 'Amer Ahmad Kassar and four other detainees, and grant them immediate access to their families and lawyers;
- Urging them to release the men unless they are charged with a recognisable criminal offence;
- Urge them to protect the men from torture or other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 JUNE 2012 TO DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF IRAQ IN YOUR COUNTRY, ADDRESSED TO:

Prime Minister and Acting Minister of

Defence and Interior

His Excellency Nuri Kamil al-Maliki,
Prime Minister
Convention Centre (Qasr al-Ma'aridh)
Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Human Rights

His Excellency Mohammad Shayaa
al-Sudani
Convention Centre (Qasr al-Ma'aridh)
Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Hassan al-Shammari
Convention Centre (Qasr al-Ma'aridh)
Baghdad, Iraq
Salutation: Your Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
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The Human Rights Committee, the expert body responsible for overseeing states' implementation of the ICCPR, has found that the practice of incommunicado detention is conducive to torture and may itself violate Article 7 or Article 10 of the ICCPR. It has stated that provision should also be made against incommunicado detention as a safeguard against torture and ill-treatment. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture has stated that 'torture is most frequently practised during incommunicado detention' and recommended that incommunicado detention should be made illegal, with persons held incommunicado released without delay.

Names: Nabhan 'Adel Hamdi , Mu'ad Muhammad 'Abed and 'Amer Ahmad Kassar
Gender m/f: All male

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