

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 14/006/2005

19 April 2005

Further Information on UA 42/05 (MDE 14/005/2005, 18 February 2005) Fear for safety/fear of torture or ill-treatment New concerns: Detention without charge

IRAQ/USA

Huda Hafez Ahmad al-'Azawi (f), businesswoman

Huda Hafez Ahmad al-'Azawi is believed to be held by US forces near Baghdad Airport. She has managed to send a message to her family in which she confirmed where she is being detained. There is no news regarding the reasons for her arrest and detention. Since her arrest, Huda Hafez Ahmad al-'Azawi has not seen her family or a lawyer.

Huda Hafez Ahmad al-'Azawi was arrested on 17 February, when US soldiers and members of the Iraqi National Guard forced their way into her home in Baghdad. The soldiers handcuffed and blindfolded her, and beat, handcuffed and blindfolded her daughters, as well as taking jewellery and cash from the house. The soldiers reportedly accused Huda Hafez Ahmad al-'Azawi of "supporting the resistance" before arresting her and taking her away.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Thousands of Iraqis are detained in Iraq without charge or trial at locations under US control. Some have been held for more than two years. Their legal status remains unclear and Amnesty International has raised its concerns about the fate of the detainees with the US and Iraqi authorities.

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

- expressing concern to both the US and Iraqi authorities that Huda Hafez Ahmad al-'Azawi has been held incommunicado without charge since 17 February;
- urging the US and Iraqi authorities to clarify the reasons for the arrest and detention of Huda Hafez Ahmad al-'Azawi, and to confirm her whereabouts;
- calling on the US and Iraqi authorities to grant her immediate access to a lawyer and family;
- calling on the US and Iraqi authorities to either charge her with a recognizably criminal offence or release her immediately;
- expressing concern that thousands of people remain held under US control without charge or trial.

APPEALS TO:

USA

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
Office of the Secretary
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301, USA

Fax: + 1 703 697 8339

Email: Send appeals via the Department of Defense website:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/faq/comment.html>

IRAQ

Fax numbers and e-mail addresses for the Iraqi authorities are not available.

Please send appeals via the Iraqi embassy or diplomatic representative in your country, asking them to forward your appeals to:

- Jalal Talabani, President of the Republic of Iraq
- Dr. Iyad 'Allawi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq

COPIES TO:

Ask for the Iraqi embassy or diplomatic representative to send copies to:

- Human Rights Minister

(At the time of writing a new Iraqi Prime Minister, Dr. Ibrahim al-Ja'afari, has been named but the new government has not been formed)

Please also send copies to diplomatic representatives of the USA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 31 May 2005.