

URGENT ACTION

IRAQ INTENDS TO EXECUTE 196 PRISONERS

Some 196 people are at imminent risk of execution in Iraq: the Ministry of Interior has announced their sentences are at the final stage and should be implemented soon.

The Iraqi Ministry of Interior published on its website on 23 July recent news from the chief of police in Anbar province, west of Baghdad, about the final stage of 196 death sentences in the province. He said that the Court of Cassation had upheld all the sentences and that he hoped they would be implemented soon. It is unclear if any of the 196 death sentences have already been ratified by the Iraqi Presidential Council.

The news published on the Ministry of Interior's website gave no details about any of the 196 people facing execution, such as their names or what charges they were convicted of.

Since the beginning of 2012 at least 70 people have been executed in Iraq. The death penalty was suspended for a time after the US-led invasion of Iraq but restored in August 2004. Since then, hundreds of people have been sentenced to death and many have been executed. Amnesty International considers the death penalty to be a violation of the right to life, and the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

Please write immediately in English or Arabic:

- Expressing concern that 196 people are facing imminent execution;
- Urging the authorities to commute these and all other death sentences;
- Calling on them to establish an immediate moratorium on executions;
- Insisting that, while governments have an obligation to bring to justice those responsible for serious crimes, the death penalty violates the right to life and is the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, and should not be applied even for the most serious crimes.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 4 SEPTEMBER 2012 TO DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF IRAQ IN YOUR COUNTRY AND 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
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The death penalty has been used very extensively in Iraq. Hundreds of people have been sentenced to death since the death penalty was reinstated by the Iraqi government in 2004, following a one-year suspension by the then head of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), Paul Bremer. The government gives very little information, such as statistics, about executions. Hundreds of people are said to be under sentence of death. Amnesty International is opposed to the death penalty in all cases because it is a violation of two fundamental human rights, as laid down in Articles 3 and 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: the right to life and the right not to be tortured or subjected to any cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment. The organization considers the death penalty to be the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

Amnesty International has repeatedly condemned human rights abuses by armed groups in Iraq, some of which are war crimes and crimes against humanity, including kidnapping, torture and killing of civilians, and continues to call for those responsible to be brought to justice.

Name: 196 prisoners

Gender m/f: m

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