

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 66/07 (MDE 14/015/2007, 15 March 2007) Incommunicado detention/fear of torture or ill-treatment

IRAQ Mohammed Siyassi Ashkani (m), journalist, aged about 35

Mohammed Siyassi Ashkani was released without charge on 19 July.

He had been arrested on 24 January, not 22 January as previously reported. A Kurdish journalist from the province of Sulaimaniya in northern Iraq, he is now known to have been accused of spying for another political party and a foreign country; he spent 55 days in solitary confinement before his family were allowed to visit him. He was then allowed weekly family visits, but never had access to a lawyer. He was held by the *Asayish* (Security), official security forces operating in the Kurdistan region. He was not tortured or ill-treated. He thanked Amnesty International for its work on his behalf.

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