

URGENT ACTION

37 PEOPLE AT RISK OF EXECUTION IN IRAQ

According to Iraqi and international media, at least 37 people in Iraq are at risk of imminent execution as they have now exhausted all legal remedies and their death sentences have been approved by the Presidential Council.

The news that 37 people are at imminent risk of execution emerged on 16 December in a media interview with Deputy Justice Minister Busho Ibrahim. In the same interview, he told the media that Iraq has executed 257 people, including six women, since 2005, despite continuous calls from the United Nations to abolish the death penalty. He added that the Iraqi authorities have so far executed 17 people in 2010, and that 124 prisoners were executed in 2009. Last Monday Iraqi Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani said that 835 people are presently on death row in Iraq.

On 10 December, UN envoy Ad Melkert, said: "On this day we would like to reiterate our universal call to refrain from carrying out the death penalty and would encourage Iraq to consider banning this instrument as a fundamental feature of applying justice in a new Iraq", according to a transcript of his speech marking International Human Rights Day.

The death penalty was suspended for a time after the US-led invasion of Iraq, but was 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, Arabic or your own language:

- Recognizing that governments have an obligation to bring to justice those responsible for serious crimes but insisting that the death penalty is a violation of the right to life and the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, and should not be applied even for crimes of the greatest magnitude;
- Calling on the authorities not to proceed with the executions of the 37 people currently reported to be at imminent risk;
- Calling on the authorities to commute all death sentences and declare an immediate moratorium on executions

PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO THE IRAQI EMBASSY OR CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY BEFORE 31 JANUARY 2011 TO:

Prime Minister

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

Salutation: His Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of justice
Judge Dara Nouredin

Minister of Human Rights
Wajdan Mikhail Salam

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

UA: 262/10 Index: MDE 14/023/2010 Issue Date: 20 December 2010

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

