

URGENT ACTION

IRAQI FORMER MP SENTENCED TO DEATH

A former member of Iraq's Council of Representatives (Parliament) has been sentenced to death after a trial marred with irregularities. He has a month to appeal.

Ahmed al-'Alwani, a prominent member of the secular political party al-Iraqiya bloc, was sentenced to death on 23 November by the Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCCI) in Baghdad for the killing of two soldiers. He had been charged with "assaulting military assets and killing and injuring security forces for terrorist ends", under Article 4 of the 2005 Anti-Terrorism Law.

Since his arrest on 28 December 2013 Ahmed al-'Alwani has been denied access to his lawyer and family. In court, his former lawyer was not allowed to cross-examine the prosecution witnesses or ask questions as they were deemed "not productive" by the court. The court refused to record his questions in the minutes of the hearing. His former lawyer was intimidated on several occasions until he withdrew from the case. The lawyer was arrested in March before a planned meeting with officials of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). He was blindfolded for 12 hours and questioned about his motives for defending Ahmed al-'Alwani. Amnesty International urged the government in May to stop intimidating him, but he said that the court's presiding judge later threatened him with arrest if he did not withdraw from the case. Another lawyer then was appointed to represent Ahmed al-'Alwani.

Ahmed al-'Alwani has a month to appeal against the death sentence. Iraq is one of the world's leading executioners. Since 2005 the vast majority of those executed have been sentenced to death for terrorism-related offences, in most cases after grossly unfair trials.

Please write immediately in English or Arabic:

- Urging the authorities to commute the death sentence imposed on Ahmed al-'Alwani;
- Expressing concern that Ahmed al-'Alwani was sentenced to death after proceedings that fell short of international standards for fair trial;
- Urging the authorities to declare an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, and commute without delay all outstanding death sentences.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 JANUARY 2015 TO:

President

(Send appeals to the representative of Iraq in your country, addressed to the president)

Fuad M'asum
Convention Centre (Qasr al-Ma'aridh)
Baghdad
Iraq

Salutation: Dear Mr President

Minister of Human Rights

Mohamed Mahdi Al-Bayati
Convention Centre (Qasr al-Ma'aridh)
Baghdad
Iraq
Email:
ministeroffice@humanrights.gov.iq
Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:

Minster of Justice
Dr Haidar al-Zamli
Convention Centre (Qasr al-Ma'aridh)
Baghdad
Iraq
Email: minister_moj@moj.gov.iq

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

Ahmed al-'Alwani was arrested on 28 December 2013 when the security forces exchanged gunfire with his private security guards when they came to arrest his brother, Ali al-'Alwani.

Ahmed al-'Alwani has been a leading public supporter of a protest camp set up in Ramadi by Sunnis protesting in 2013 against what they saw as marginalization by the Shi'a majority government and the targeting of their community. The protest was violently dispersed by the Iraqi security forces shortly after Ahmed al-'Alwani's arrest, on the grounds that it had become a nest of al-Qa'ida militants.

The exchange of gunfire with the security forces, which took place in front of Ahmed al-'Alwani's house, in the centre of the city of Ramadi, led to the death of 'Ali al-'Alwani and wounded Ahmed al-'Alwani's guards. One security officer was killed and at least four were injured. The dismantling of the camp sparked fights that extended to the city of Falluja early in 2014. The group calling itself Islamic State (IS) took control of Falluja early in January and has since then controlled most of Anbar province.

The death sentence handed down to Ahmed al-'Alwani has angered many people, including Sunni leaders of the Albu Alwan tribe, to which the MP belongs, and which is now fighting the IS alongside government forces in Ramadi.

Name: Ahmed al-'Alwani

Gender m/f: m

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