

URGENT ACTION

IRAQI JOURNALIST AT RISK OF TORTURE

Journalist Ja'far al-Nasrawi was arrested on 19 July in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad for participating in an illegal demonstration. He is held in a police station in Baghdad where he is yet to be interrogated. He is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Ja'far al-Nasrawi, a journalist working for the Iraqi satellite television channel al-Sumariya, was arrested on 19 July 2013 in al-Tahrir Square in Baghdad. He was participating in a peaceful anti-government demonstration. He was arrested by a federal police unit and taken to a police station in Bab al-Ma'dham, a Baghdad district. He is expected to be taken to an investigative judge for questioning. Whilst in detention at the police station he is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

On 18 July Ja'far al-Nasrawi posted on his Facebook page that he and others will be demonstrating the following day and will be chanting "no to a government that has fed sectarianism in my country, no to a government that has stolen my country's resources, no to a government whose security forces have killed my country's sons...".

Journalists in Iraq have been targeted for arrest for covering anti-government protests or sit-ins or for participating themselves in demonstrations.

Please write immediately in your own language:

- Urging the Iraqi authorities to release Nadir Ja'far al-Nasrawi immediately if he is detained solely for his right to freedom of expression and assembly;
- Urging them to protect him from torture or other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 30 AUGUST 2013 TO:

Prime Minister

His Excellency Nuri Kamil al-Maliki,
Convention Centre (Qasr al-Ma'aridh)
Baghdad, Iraq
Email: info@pmo.iq (keep trying)
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Hassan al-Shammari
Ministry of Justice
Baghdad, Iraq
Contactable in Arabic via web site:
<http://www.moj.gov.iq/complaints.php>
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Human Rights
His Excellency Mohammad Shayaa al-Sudani
Ministry of Human Rights
Baghdad, Iraq
Email: shakawa@humanrights.gov.iq
Salutation: Your Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ten years after the US-led invasion of Iraq, the human rights situation in the country remains alarming despite the end of the regime of President Saddam Hussein. Over the past decade tens of thousands of civilians have been killed by armed groups, and foreign and Iraqi forces. Tens of thousands have been detained for months or years without charge or trial. Torture and other ill-treatment of detainees, particularly during interrogations, remains widespread. International fair trial standards are routinely flouted. Many defendants have reported that they were tortured and coerced into making self-incriminating statements; such "confessions" have frequently been accepted as evidence at court, including in numerous cases where people have been sentenced to death.

Name: Ja'far al-Nasrawi
Gender m/f: M

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