

# URGENT ACTION

## IRAQI KURD HELD INCOMMUNICADO

**A 35-year-old Iraqi Kurd, Hazem Saber Ibrahim Qader, has been held incommunicado in Iraq's Kurdistan region since 17 June, and is believed to be at risk of torture.**

**Hazem Saber Ibrahim Qader** was summoned by the Asayish (security services) and presented himself at an Asayish branch in Bahare Newe, in Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq at 10am on 17 June 2013. His family have not seen him since. He was reportedly transferred to the main Asayish building in Erbil and has been held incommunicado. The Asayish issued a statement that he is being held on suspicion of "terror" activities. He is 35 years old, married with six children.

Hazem Saber Ibrahim Qader received a phone call from the Asayish in the morning of 16 June. He was told to go to the local Asayish building with his passport the following day. He went there on 17 June and when he did not return home his brother went to enquire about him. The brother was told by the local Asayish that Hazem Saber Ibrahim Qader had been transferred to the main Asayish building in Erbil. Four days later, his mother and father went there to enquire about him but were told that no one by that name was detained there.

On 21 June, news of Hazem Saber Ibrahim Qader's arrest was published by some online media outlets. The Asayish then issued a statement confirming his arrest on suspicion of "terror" activities and stating that his family had been informed and shown an arrest order, which the family have denied. The family also deny that Hazem Saber Ibrahim Qader has any links to any terrorist groups or activities. Hazem Saber Ibrahim Qader is being held incommunicado and is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

**Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:**

- Calling on the authorities of the Kurdistan region to allow Hazem Saber Ibrahim Qader immediate access to his family and a lawyer of his own choice;
- Urging them to ensure that he is being protected from torture or other ill-treatment;
- Urging them to give him access to a court to challenge the lawfulness of his detention, and to charge him with a recognizable criminal offence or release him.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 AUGUST 2013 TO DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OR IRAQ IN YOUR COUNTRY AND ADDRESSED TO:**

President

Masu'd Barzani  
Diwan, P.O. Box 60  
Erbil

Kurdistan Region of Iraq  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Prime Minister

Nechirvan Barzani  
Kurdistan Regional Government  
Erbil

Republic of Iraq  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister of the Interior

Karim Sinjari  
Kurdistan Regional Government  
Erbil

Republic of 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 Kurdistan Region of Iraq has enjoyed a semi-autonomous status since 1991. Two main political parties have dominated the political life in the region. The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), led by the KRG President Mas'ud Barzani, controls the governorates of Erbil and Dohuk. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Iraq's President Jalal Talabani, controls the Sulaimaniya governorate. Kurdish security agencies (Asayish) and the armed forces (Peshmerga) are directly or indirectly controlled by the two parties.

Generally the security situation in this region has been considerably better than the rest of Iraq. While the human rights situation has improved in recent years, there are still ongoing violations carried out by the security forces, including arbitrary arrest, long-term detention without trial, torture and unfair trial. Anti-government activists are harassed and sometimes detained and tortured. In 2011, for example, thousands of protesters took to the street and called for an end to corruption, unemployment and poor government services, and for the introduction of political reforms, social justice and respect for human rights and freedoms. They complained about the political and economic control exercised by the two political parties that have been in power since 1991. Six protestors died as a result of unnecessary or excessive use of force by the security forces and a number of people were detained and some were allegedly tortured.

Name: Hazem Saber Ibrahim Qader

Gender m/f: M

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