UA 187/13 19 July 2013 **URGENT ACTION** MDE 14/013/2013

# **IRAQI JOURNALIST AT RISK OF TORTURE**

# IRAQ

**Ja’far al-Nasrawi (m)**

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 would be demonstrating the following day and would 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 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: (Time difference = GMT + 3 hrs / BST + 2 hrs)**

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| 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 JusticeBaghdad, Iraq Contactable in Arabic via web site: <http://www.moj.gov.iq/complaints.php> Salutation: *Your Excellency* | **And copies to:**Minister of Human RightsHis Excellency Mohammad Shayaa al-Sudani Ministry of Human RightsBaghdad, Iraq Email: shakawa@humanrights.gov.iq Salutation: *Your Excellency* |

**PLEASE SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEAL TO**

Dr Muhieddin Hussien Abdullah Al-Taaie, Chargé d’Affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Iraq, 21 Queens Gate, London, SW7 5JE

**Fax:** 0207 5907679 **Tel:** 020 7590 7650 **Email:** lonemb@iraqmfamail.com

**Website:** [www.iraqembassy.org.uk](http://www.iraqembassy.org.uk)

**BACKGROUND 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.

**PLEASE CHECK WITH THE INDIVIDUALS AT RISK PROGRAMME AT AIUK BEFORE SENDING APPEALS AFTER 30 AUGUST 2013**

Individuals at Risk Programme, Amnesty International UK, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA, 0207 033 1572, iar@amnesty.org.uk.