

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 14/028/2008

12 November 2008

UA 313/08      Fear for safety  
IRAQ            Akhtar Mohammed Mustafa (f)  
                  Melko 'Abbas Mohammed (m)

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Akhtar Mohammed Mustafa and her son Melko 'Abbas Mohammed are being detained by the *Asayish Gishti* (General Security Directorate) in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. Amnesty International fears that they may be subjected to torture or ill-treatment.

On 6 November 2008 a criminal court in the Kurdish city of Sulaimaniya sentenced four people to death in connection with a car bomb attack outside the Palace Hotel in the city of Sulaimaniya that killed one person and injured 40 others on 10 March 2008 (see UA 311/08 MDE MDE 14/027/2008, 11 November 2008). Another four people, including Akhtar Mohammed Mustafa and Melko 'Abbas Mohammed, were tried on the same charges but were acquitted by the court for lack of evidence.

Despite a court order to release them, Akhtar Mohammed Mustafa and Melko 'Abbas Mohammed were immediately re-arrested by the *Asayish Gishti* in Sulaimaniya. The head of the *Asayish Gishti* had reportedly refused to accept the court's verdict in their case.

After his first arrest, on 19 March 2008, Melko 'Abbas Mohammed was tortured by being left suspended by his limbs for long periods, beatings with a cable and the application of electric shocks to different parts of his body, especially his genitals.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- expressing concern that Akhtar Mohammed Mustafa and Melko 'Abbas Mohammed continue to be detained despite the court ordering their release;
- seeking clarification of the reasons for their re-arrest and detention;
- urging the authorities to ensure that they are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment;
- requesting their immediate and unconditional release in view of the court's verdict in their case.

**APPEALS TO:**

**IMPORTANT: please send appeals to these ministers via the KRG offices overseas (list sent separately). You can also target them directly where contact information is provided.**

Prime Minister

Nechirvan Idris Barzani

**Salutation:      Your Excellency**

Minister for the Interior

Osman Hajy Mohamood

**Email:            interior\_minister\_sul@yahoo.com**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister of Justice

Farooq Jamil Sadiq

**Email: dad@mojkurdistan.com**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister of Human Rights

Dr Yousif M. Aziz

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 December 2008.