

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 86/99

Fear for safety

15 July 1999

JORDAN/IRAQ

Jotiar Yahia Latif al-Salihi, aged 31
Rawiya (his wife), aged 28, and two children, Chimen (f),
aged 3 and Latif, aged 1
Robar Yahia Latif al-Salihi (brother), aged 24
Omaed Yahia Latif al-Salihi (brother)
Joanne Yahia Latif al-Salihi (sister)
Gulbahar Yahia Latif al-Salihi (mother)

Jotiar Yahia Latif al-Salihi, his wife and his children, Iraqi nationals, may have been abducted in Jordan by the Iraqi intelligence services on 9 July 1999. There are grave fears for their safety. His two brothers, sister and mother may be at risk of forcible repatriation to Iraq, where they would face serious human rights violations, including torture.

Jotiar Yahia Latif al-Salihi and his family fled to Jordan about five months ago to escape persecution in Iraq, and all applied for asylum at the UNHCR office in the capital, Amman. His brother, Latif, now living in Europe, is being sought by the Iraqi authorities for his opposition activities.

Jotiar, his wife and two children went out shopping on 9 July and did not return. The next day, his brother, Robar, alerted the Jordanian police, who in turn informed the Jordanian Intelligence Services. The Intelligence Services reportedly told Robar that his brother and his family had left for Iraq.

On 12 July a London-based Arabic newspaper, *al-Sharq al-Awsat*, carried an interview with Robar describing what had happened. A day later security officers came to the family house in Amman, confiscated all their passports and took Robar away. He was reportedly interrogated for 10 hours. He was told that the family's stay in Amman had expired and was summoned again to appear before the intelligence services on 15 July.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, French, Arabic or your own language:

- urging the Jordanian authorities to ensure that Robar Yahia Latif al-Salihi and his family are not sent back to Iraq, where they would face serious human rights violations;
- asking to be told the exact whereabouts of Jotiar Yahia Latif al-Salihi, his wife and two children;
- if the reports of their abduction and forcible return to Iraq are confirmed, urging that an independent investigation be carried out, and that those responsible are brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

His Majesty King 'Abdallah bin Hussein
Office of HM the King
Royal Palace
Amman

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Telegrams: King 'Abdallah bin Hussein, Amman, Jordan

Faxes: + 962 6 463 4755

Salutation: Your Majesty

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Nayef al-Qadi
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
PO Box 100
Amman
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Faxes: + 962 6 560 6908
Salutation: Dear Mr al-Qadi

Masuh Mohieddin
Director of Public Security
PO Box 935
Amman
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Faxes: + 962 6 463 0322
Salutation: Dear Mr Mohieddin

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Jordan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 August 1999.