

Detailed information about the arbitrary Arrest of Mr. Yashar Mahmoud, the Representative of the Iraqi Turkmen Front in Telafer

I. IDENTITY

1. Family name: **Mahmud**
2. First name: **Yashar A.**
3. Sex: **Male**
4. Birth date or age (at the time of detention): **10.07.1956**
5. Nationality/Nationalities: **Iraqi**
6. (a) Identity document (if any): **Iraqi Identity Card**
(b) Issued by: **Citizenship directorate - Baghdad**
(c) On (date): **3.7.1974**
(d) No.: **867459**
7. Profession and/or activity (if believed to be relevant to the arrest/detention):
Political Position: Representative of the Iraqi Turkmen Front of Telafer Region
8. Address of usual residence:
Mosul Province, Hey al-Ziraie. SEC.103 – St. 35 No.2, Iraq

II. ARREST

1. Date of arrest: **16.06.07**
2. Place of arrest (as detailed as possible):
Tumarat Military Camp/Telafer District/Mosul Province Iraq
3. Forces who carried out the arrest or are believed to have carried it out:
United States Forces
4. Did they show a warrant or other decision by a public authority? **No**
5. Authority who issued the warrant or decision: **n/a**
6. Relevant legislation applied (if known): **n/a**

III. DETENTION

1. Date of detention: **16.06.2007, 13:00**
2. Duration of detention (if not known, probable duration): **n/a**
3. Forces holding the detainee under custody: **United States Forces**
4. Places of detention (indicate any transfer and present place of detention):

Last time Dr. Mahmud spoke with his family, at the end of August 2007, he was at the Baghdad Airport

5. Authorities that ordered the detention:

American soldiers from Telafer Airfield

6. Reasons for the detention imputed by the authorities: **No reason given**

7. Relevant legislation applied (if known): **n/a**

IV. Describe the circumstances of the arrest and/or the detention and indicate precise reasons why you consider the arrest or detention to be arbitrary [9/](#)

On 16 June 2007, Iraqi Military leadership in Telafer region called Mr. Yashar A. Mahmoud, the Representative of the Iraqi Turkmen Front of Telafer district, with other notables from the region for a meeting in Tumarat military camp 30 km to the north of the city. The meeting was organized to discuss the situation in Telafer and chaired by the Colonel Jamil, an officer in the department of military inspection. The meeting was completed and the guests had a meal in the camp. Mr. Mahmoud was arrested at the exit door of the camp by United States soldiers from Telafer Airfield.

V. Indicate internal steps, including domestic remedies, taken especially with the legal and administrative authorities, particularly for the purpose of establishing the detention and, as appropriate, their results or the reasons why such steps or remedies were ineffective or why they were not taken:

The Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) talked to the governor of Mosul. The ITF moreover met the American Consol in Mosul.

VI. Full name and address of the person(s) submitting the information (telephone and fax number, if possible) ¹

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Date: **13 September 2007**

Signature:

Amnesty International
Keizersgracht 177
P. O. Box 1968, 1000 BZ,
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The Netherlands

Subject: Urgent Appeal of Arbitrary Detention of Mr. Yashar A. Mahmoud

The Iraqi Turkmen Human Rights Research Foundation, known as 'SOITM', is an institute with a focus on human rights and democracy. It maintains regular contact with the Middle East academics, international press, policy makers and the Human Rights organizations to represent the Turkmen of Iraq and assist the democratization process and the spread of civil society culture in Iraq. This communication relates to serious and ongoing concerns about the arbitrary detention of the Representative of the Iraqi Turkmen Front of Telafer Region, Mr. Yashar A. Mahmoud.

On 16 June 2007, United States forces arrested Mr. Yashar A. Mahmoud in Iraq's northern province of Mosul. No warrant or decision from public authority was given nor at or after the arrest. Despite the Iraqi Turkmen Front meeting with the American consul and the Governor in Mosul, the situation has unfortunately not changed.

The Turkmen are the third largest ethnic group in Iraq after the Kurds and Arabs. The number of Turkmen is estimated at more than 10% of the Iraqi population. They live in the provinces of north and middle of Iraq: Mosul, Erbil, Kerkuk, Salah al-Din, Diyala, Baghdad and Kut. They are distinct in language and culture from both their neighbors, the Arabs and Kurds. Yet, the Turkmen are continuously denied political rights and systematically faced assimilation. Iraq has been a fertile ground for arbitrary detentions, and the Turkmen have suffered tremendously from this trend. SOITM condemns the blatant disregard of human rights in Iraq and Turkmen regions the arbitral detentions made in that region with no legitimate documents or reason.

SOITM would hereby like to appeal to Your organization to:

- Urge the Coalition Provisional Authority and Iraqi government authorities in Baghdad to free Mr. Mahmoud until any form of legitimate and recognized form of warrant or decision explaining the detention is offered

I hope You will be able to offer due consideration to the request contained in this letter, and take this opportunity to offer You the assurances of our highest appreciation.

Respectfully,

Dr. Sheth Jerjis
Chairman SOITM