

- Refugees fleeing to Europe often reported instances of torture to receiving governments, and displayed scars and mutilations to substantiate their claims.²³
- In August 2001 Amnesty International released a report entitled *Iraq -- Systematic Torture of Political Prisoners*, which detailed the systematic and routine use of torture against suspected political opponents and, occasionally, other prisoners. Amnesty International also reports "Detainees have also been threatened with bringing in a female relative, especially the wife or the mother, and raping her in front of the detainee. Some of these threats have been carried out."²⁴
- Saad Keis Naoman, an Iraqi soccer player who defected to Europe, reported that he and his teammates were beaten and humiliated at the order of Uday Saddam Hussein for poor performances. He was flogged until his back was bloody, forcing him to sleep on his stomach in the tiny cell in Al-Radwaniya prison.²⁵

EXECUTIONS AND REPRESSION OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION

- Former UN Human Rights Special Rapporteur Max Van der Stoep's report in April 1998 stated that Iraq had executed at least 1,500 people during the previous year for political reasons.
- The government continues to execute summarily alleged political opponents and leaders in the Shi'a religious community. Reports suggest that persons were executed merely because of their association with an opposition group or as part of a continuing effort to reduce prison populations.²⁶
- In February 2001, the Government reportedly executed 37 political detainees for opposition activity.²⁷
- In June 2001, security forces killed a Shi'a cleric, Hussein Bahar al-Uloom, for refusing to appear on television to congratulate Qusay Saddam Hussein for his election to a Ba'ath Party position. Such killings continue an apparent government policy of eliminating prominent Shi'a clerics who are suspected of disloyalty to the government. In 1998 and 1999, the Government killed a number of leading Shi'a clerics, prompting the former Special Rapporteur in 1999 to express his concern to the government that the killings might be part of a systematic attack by government officials on the independent leadership of the Shi'a Muslim community. The government did not respond to the Special Rapporteur's letter.²⁸
- There are persistent reports that families are made to pay for the cost of executions.²⁹
- Saddam Hussein destroyed the southern Iraqi town of Albu 'Aysh sometime between September 1998 and December 1999.³⁰

²³ Page 4, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Iraq*, March 4, 2002; US Department of State; www.state.gov

²⁴ *Iraq – Systematic Torture of Political Prisoners*, Amnesty International; web.amnesty.org

²⁵ Page 4, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Iraq*, March 4, 2002; US Department of State; www.state.gov

²⁶ *Ibid*, Page 1

²⁷ *Ibid*, Page 2

²⁸ *Ibid*, Page 2

²⁹ *Ibid*, Page 4

³⁰ *Iraq – Systematic Torture of Political Prisoners*, Amnesty International; web.amnesty.org