



The Ambassador

Baghdad, Iraq

April 22, 2006

Dottore Giovanni di Stefano
Studio Legale Internazionale
Largo G. Tartini 3-4
00197 Rome
Italy

Dear Dottore di Stefano:

Thank you for your letter of March 17, 2006, in which you raised concerns about the legal and medical status of Mr. Tariq Aziz. In your most recent letter, you expressed concern that Mr. Aziz has spent several years in custody without charge. I have been advised, however, that the Iraqi High Tribunal (IHT) has issued and served two arrest warrants on Mr. Aziz. The first warrant was issued and served in June 2004, alleging violation of Article 12 of the Statute of the IHT, for Crimes Against Humanity. Last month, the IHT served a second arrest warrant on Mr. Aziz for violation of Article 12.

Although Mr. Aziz remains in the physical custody of Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I), the IHT now maintains legal custody over him. The IHT assumed legal custody of Mr. Aziz in June 2004 with the service of the first IHT arrest warrant. Because legal custody rests with the Iraqis, the IHT is ultimately responsible for making decisions regarding Mr. Aziz's confinement status.

Regarding your concern about medical care provided to Mr. Aziz, I again assure you that MNF-I physicians continue to provide Mr. Aziz with regular medical and dental assessments as well as appropriate treatment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Z. Khalilzad", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Zalmay Khalilzad