

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 28/03/00

22 March 2000

Further information on EXTRA 25/00 (MDE 28/02/00, 15 March 2000) - Police intimidation / Fear for safety / Fear of future arrests

ALGERIA Mothers and other relatives of the "disappeared"

Relatives of the "disappeared" have again been arrested and threatened with imprisonment as they gathered for a weekly demonstration in Relizane, Western Algeria. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety.

In a repeat of the events of a week before, on 22 March around 40 people, including at least 25 women, were arrested by security forces as they gathered for a demonstration due to start at 9 am in the *Place de la Résistance*, a public square in the city centre. They were made to sign police statements and threatened with prosecution and imprisonment, but released after a few hours.

Among those arrested were Mme Wahiba Radaoui, Mme Fatma Touaz and Mme Amrani, all of whose husbands have "disappeared"; M. Lakhdar Goufa and M. Djalloul Freh, both of whom have sons who have "disappeared"; M. M'hamed Saidane, whose brother has "disappeared"; M. Mohamed Belkhadda, whose father has "disappeared"; and Mme Fatma Ali, who has lost two sons and her husband. The oldest of those arrested was M. Ahmed Chaib, an 86-year-old man whose son Lazreg Chaib was taken from his home by security forces on 16 August 1994 and has not been heard of since.

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

- expressing concern that on 22 March 2000 some 40 people, mostly women, were arrested as they gathered for a peaceful demonstration in Relizane, and were threatened with prosecution and imprisonment;
- since this has happened two weeks running, and demonstrations are to take place every week, urging the authorities to take immediate steps to ensure that the security forces do not arrest, ill-treat or threaten the families of the "disappeared" for taking part in peaceful demonstrations.

APPEALS TO:

M. Yazid ZERHOUNI
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur et
des Collectivités Locales
18 rue Docteur Saâdane
Alger
Algérie

Telegrams: Ministre l'Intérieur, Alger, Algérie

Faxes: + 213 2 73 61 06

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your excellency

M. Ahmed OUYAHIA
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
8 Place Bir Hakem
El Biar
Alger
Algérie

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Alger, Algérie

Faxes: + 213 2 92 21 95

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your excellency

COPIES TO:

M. Kamel REZZAG-BARA

2

President
Observatoire National des Droits de l'Homme (ONDH)
Palais du Peuple
1 Av. Franklin Roosevelt
Alger
Algérie
Faxes: + 213 2 239005 / 239037

and to diplomatic representatives of Algeria accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 April 2000.