

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 53/05 (MDE 28/002/2005, 7 March 2005) - Possible secret detention/fear of torture

ALGERIA

Ali Drif (m), Algerian national

Ali Drif was released without charge at around 7pm on 9 March. Security officers took him to the home of his wife's family, who live in Algeria.

Ali Drif had been taken from Saint-Paul prison, in Lyon, France, by five police officers in the early morning of 26 February. He reported that he was kept in a straitjacket for the whole of the trip to Marseille, where he was put on a boat to Algiers and locked into a cabin. The cabin was opened only once the boat was already at sea. Once the boat arrived in Algiers, Ali Drif had been taken to an undisclosed location where he was interrogated by plain clothes security officers. He was kept in secret detention for 10 days.

On 24 March a court in France is due to rule on Ali Drif's ban from French territory, following a request by his lawyer that the ban, imposed in 1999, be lifted.

No further action is requested from the UA Network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.