

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 29/007/2003

24 June 2003

Further Information on UA 148/03 (MDE 29/002/2003, 28 May 2003) and follow-up (MDE 29/004/2003, 17 June 2003) - Prisoner of conscience / health concern

MOROCCO

Ali Lmrabet (m), journalist

Ali Lmrabet, editor-in-chief of two satirical newspapers, ended his 47-day hunger strike on 23 June. Prince Moulay Hicham al-Alaoui, a cousin of King Mohammed VI, announced the end of the hunger strike, following his visit to Ali Lmrabet in hospital the same day. Ali Lmrabet had also been visited by Morocco's official human rights body, the Human Rights Advisory Board.

Ali Lmrabet is said to have lost a significant amount of weight but his health is thought to be stable. He began his hunger strike in protest at his recent court case and imprisonment.

A three-year prison sentence, handed down on appeal on 17 June, remains in force. He was convicted on charges of insulting King Mohamed VI, "undermining the monarchy" and "threatening the integrity of the national territory" on the basis of several articles which appeared in both the newspapers of which he is editor-in-chief. Amnesty International continues to consider him to be a prisoner of conscience and calls for his immediate and unconditional release.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Amnesty International will use longer term campaigning methods on behalf of Ali Lmrabet. Please send a final round of appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic, French or your own language:

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Ali Lmrabet as a prisoner of conscience, jailed solely for the legitimate and peaceful expression of his beliefs;
- calling for all legislation which, in violation of international standards, stipulates prison sentences for the mere exercise of the right to freedom of expression to be reviewed or abolished.

APPEALS TO:

Justice Minister

M. Mohamed BOUZOUBAA

Ministre de Justice

Ministère de la Justice

Place Mamounia

Rabat, Morocco

Telegram: Ministre de Justice, Rabat, Morocco

Fax: + 212 37 72 37 10/ 73 07 72/ 73 89 40

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Minister of Human Rights

M. Mohamed AOJJAR

Ministre des Droits de l'Homme

Ministère des Droits de l'Homme

47 Avenue Ibn Sina

Agdal

Rabat, Morocco

Fax: + 212 37 67 19 67

and to diplomatic representatives of Morocco accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.