

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 29/27/91
Distrib: PG/SC

Date: 9 September 1991

@RELEASE OF DR MOHAMMED JAAIDI

EMOROCCO

(See Health personnel: Victims of human rights violations,
ACT 75/01/91, April 1991)

Keywords

Theme: prisoner of conscience/release

Profession/association: psychiatrist

Dr Mohammed Jaaidi, a 37-year-old psychiatrist, was one of 40 people released from prison on 16 August 1991 under the terms of an amnesty granted by King Hassan II.

He had been arrested at his home in Tetouan on 7 November 1985 at a time when a wave of arrests was taking place in Morocco. He was brought to trial in January 1986 with 26 others on charges of having "participated in a clandestine organization, *Ila'l-Amam*, which aimed to overthrow the monarchy". Dr Jaaidi was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment and was being held in Tanger Civil Prison; he had served over five years of his sentence at the time of his release.

Amnesty International had adopted Dr Jaaidi as a prisoner of conscience, believing him to have been arrested solely for the peaceful expression of his political and professional views. He was the Director of Tetouan psychiatric hospital and Director of Sanitation for Northern Morocco and was well-known for his efforts to improve the standard of care and conditions for his psychiatric patients.

Many of the 40 political prisoners who were released under the August amnesty had been tried on the same charges as Dr Jaaidi. Those released also included Nouredine Jouhari and Hassan Aharrath, two former students who had been on hunger strike for more than six years. They had been kept isolated in Averroes hospital in Casablanca and maintained alive by forcible feeding. (See MDE 29/21/90, 7 November 1990.)

No further action is required for Dr Jaaidi. Thank you to all those who appealed on his behalf.