

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 28/02 (MDE 30/002/2002, 30 January 2002) and follow-up (MDE 30/006/2002, 4 February 2002) - Fear of torture / Possible arrests / Possible prisoners of conscience

TUNISIAHamma Hammami (m)
Abdeljabbar Madouri (m)
Samir Taamallah (m)
Ammar Amroussia (m)

The four members of the Tunisian Workers' Communist Party named above are being held in better conditions of detention and are no longer in danger.

Hamma Hammami, Abdeljabbar Madouri and Samir Taamallah were sentenced *in absentia* to nine years and three months' imprisonment for membership of the banned Tunisian Workers' Communist Party in 1999. They went into hiding until 2 February 2002, when they attended their retrial at the First Instance Court in the capital Tunis. Following the confirmation of their original sentences, the men were arrested and imprisoned. Abdeljabbar Madouri received an additional two years' imprisonment for contempt of court.

On 30 March, the appeal court in Tunis reduced the sentences against Hamma Hammami, Abdeljabbar Madouri and Samir Taamallah to three years and two months', three years and nine months' and one year and nine months' imprisonment respectively.

The men's trial and appeal, which were observed by lawyers mandated by Amnesty International and many other international observers, failed to comply with international standards. The men are now imprisoned at 9 avril prison in Tunis and their lawyers have serious difficulties obtaining permission to visit them.

Ammar Amroussia, who also came out of hiding on 2 February, is imprisoned in Gafsa prison, southern Tunisia. His prison sentence of two years and four months had already been confirmed by an appeal court in 1997. He is now receiving regular visits from his family, but is not allowed to receive books or exchange letters with them.

No further action is requested from the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.