

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture

24 April 1992

TUNISIA:

Jamal Rizki, Habib Khmila and 10 others

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Amnesty International has recently learned that Jamal Rizki and Habib Khmila, who were among a group of 12 Tunisian nationals arrested in Libya in February 1992 and expelled to Tunisia, are believed to be held incommunicado in prolonged garde á vue in the Ministry of Interior in Tunis. Amnesty International fears that they may be tortured while held incommunicado beyond the maximum 10-day-period for garde á vue detention allowed by Tunisian law.

Jamal Rizki, a 29-year-old member of the illegal Islamist movement *Hizb al-Nahda* (Renaissance party), was said to have been arrested in a hotel in Tripoli at the end of February 1992 by Libyan security forces. Amnesty International had appealed to the Libyan authorities not to expel the Tunisians concerned or hand them over to the Tunisian authorities. However, the organization received information that Jamal Rizki, Habib Khmila and 10 others were taken to Ras Jadir near the Libyan/Tunisian border in February 1992.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At least 8,000 supporters of *Hizb al-Nahda* have been arrested and detained over the last year. Most of them have been held in incommunicado detention. Hundreds have been tortured and at least nine of these political detainees have died in circumstances which strongly suggest that they died under torture.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern that Jamal Rizki, Habib Khmila and the 10 other Tunisians expelled from Libya in February 1992 are believed to be held in illegally prolonged garde á vue detention;
- expressing concern for their safety and the risk of these men being subjected to torture while held incommunicado;
- urging that they be allowed immediate access to their families and lawyers, and that they receive all necessary medical care;
- urging that Jamal Rizki, Habib Khmila and the 10 other Tunisians expelled from Libya be immediately released unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought to trial.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. Minister of the Interior:

M. Abdallah Kallel  
Ministre de l'Interieur  
Ministère de l'Interieur  
Avenue Habib Bourguiba  
Tunis, Tunisie

**Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Tunis, Tunisia**

**Telexes: 13662 sdap tn**

**[Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency]**

2. Minister of Justice:

M. Abderrahim Zouari  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
Boulevard Bab Benat  
Tunis, Tunisie

**Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Tunis, Tunisia**

**Faxes: + 216 1 568 106**

**[Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency]**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1. First Presidential Counsellor for Human Rights:

M. Sadok Chaabane  
Conseiller Présidentiel chargé des Droits de l'Homme  
Palais Présidentiel  
Carthage/Tunis  
Tunisie

**Faxes: + 216 1 744721; +216 742513**

**[Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellence]**

**PLEASE ALSO SEND COPIES OF SOME OF YOUR APPEALS, FOR INFORMATION, TO:**

Human Rights Organization

Ligue Tunisienne de la Défense des Droits de l'Homme  
23 rue du Yemen  
Tunis, Tunisia

**Faxes: + 216 1 795 466**

and also to diplomatic representatives of Tunisia in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or your Section Office if sending appeals after 12 June 1992.