

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 48/98 (MDE 30/04/98, 13 February 1998) and follow-ups (MDE 30/09/98, 13 March 1998, MDE 30/16/98, 12 June 1998, MDE 30/02/99, 8 February 1999 and MDE 30/03/99, 12 February 1999) - fear for safety

TUNISIA Radhia Nasraoui, human rights lawyer

On 14 July, human rights lawyer Radhia Nasraoui was given a six-month suspended prison sentence by the *Tribunal de première instance*, Court of First Instance in Tunis.

She was tried with 20 co-defendants, most of them students, in a case that involved alleged members of the unauthorized *Parti communiste des ouvriers tunisiens* (PCOT), Tunisian Workers' Communist Party. The marathon trial, which opened on 10 July and lasted for 20 hours, ending at 5am the next day, was characterized by disrespect for the rights of the defence. At one point all the defence lawyers walked out in protest at the judge's decision to prevent one of them from continuing his argument to the court.

No further appeals are required from the network, as the case has been taken up by other means.