

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 30/36/99

21 October 1999

Further information on UA 194/99 (MDE 30/31/99, 3 August 1999) and follow-up (MDE 30/33/99, 8 September 1999) - Fear for safety/ harassment and intimidation

TUNISIA **Radhia Nasraoui, human rights lawyer and her children Nadia Hammami (f), aged 16, Oussaima Hammami and Sara Hammami**

Radhia Nasraoui's daughter Nadia Hammami has recently come under increased surveillance and intimidation, and Amnesty International is concerned for her safety.

At the beginning of the week, ahead of the presidential and legislative elections, a state TV camera crew visited her high school. One of the officials accompanying the crew reportedly asked Nadia Hammami why she did not join other pupils as they chanted slogans in favour of President Ben Ali. She replied that her father, Hamma Hammami, is a political opponent in hiding whom she has not seen for two years, and that she is deprived of her passport as punishment for her parents' political and human rights activities. Since then, she has been closely followed on her way to and from school by three men, which is frightening for her and her family. On 20 October, as Nadia was scared to go home on her own, her schoolmates came with her and had to intervene to prevent one of the men following her from entering the building where her family lives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In August 1999, Nadia narrowly avoided being run over in a children's play area by a man on a motorbike who had been following her.

Her mother Radhia Nasraoui has been continually harassed over several years because of her work as a human rights lawyer. In March 1998, she was charged together with a group of students accused of links with the *Parti communiste des ouvriers tunisiens* (PCOT), Tunisian Workers' Communist Party, whom she was representing. She was accused of offences including links with a terrorist group, inciting rebellion and defamation of the authorities. She was given a six-month suspended prison sentence in July 1999. Her husband, Hamma Hammami, was tried *in absentia* in the same case and sentenced to nine years and three months' imprisonment.

In the past two years the Tunisian authorities have increasingly targeted human rights defenders because of their activities in defence of human rights and civil liberties. Several have been arrested and many are under surveillance, and they and their relatives are continually followed, harassed and intimidated.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Arabic, French or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Nadia Hammami;
- expressing concern that Radhia Nasraoui and her daughters continue to be harassed and intimidated by the security forces and calling for this to be stopped;
- urging the authorities to take the necessary measures to put an end to the harassment and intimidation of all human rights defenders and their relatives and to ensure that they are allowed to carry out their human rights activities.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Justice
M. Abdallah Kallel
Ministère de la Justice
31 Boulevard Bab Benat
1006 Tunis
Tunisia

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Tunis, Tunisia
Fax: + 216 1 568 106
Telex: 13000 maet tn (via Ministère de l'Intérieur)

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Your Excellency

Minister of the Interior

M. Ali Chaouch

Ministère de l'Intérieur

Avenue Habib Bourguiba

1001 Tunis

Tunisia

Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Tunis, Tunisia

Fax: + 216 1 340 888

Telex: 13662 sdap tn

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Tunisian Human Rights League

Me Toufik Bouderbala

Président Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme

LTDH

7 Rue Pierre Curie

Tunis

Tunisia

Faxes: + 216 1 336 338

and to diplomatic representatives of Tunisia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 December 1999.