

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/41/97

9 July 1997

Further information on UA 122/97 (MDE 30/23/97, 29 April 1997) and follow-up (MDE 30/40/97, 3 July 1997) - Prisoner of conscience / Fear of further POCs

TUNISIAMohamed MOUADDA, former leader of opposition political party and other conditionally released prisoners of conscience

Mohamed Mouadda, former leader of the opposition *Mouvement des Démocrates Socialistes (MDS, Movement of Social Democrats)*, and under house arrest since 14 April 1997, was reportedly ill-treated by members of the security forces during an attempt to leave his house on 4 July. He apparently told those in charge of his surveillance that he would rather be sent back to prison than remain under house arrest. He was allegedly beaten and forced to return inside.

Since Mohamed Mouadda has been under house arrest he has been prevented from both leaving his home and from receiving visitors except for his immediate family. Even his wife's doctor is unable to attend to his wife in spite of her poor health. Additionally his phone line has been disconnected and his mail intercepted.

On 28 June Mohamed Mouadda's son, Talel, was arrested outside his home and interrogated for several hours about his father's contacts with the outside world in the Ministry of the Interior. His arrest came immediately after a statement issued by Mohamed Mouadda. In it he condemned the campaign of intimidation and slander by the Tunisian authorities against human rights defenders recently invited to a meeting at the European Parliament on the human rights situation in Tunisia. This meeting was also attended by Amnesty International and other international human rights organizations.

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

- calling on the Tunisian authorities to lift the house arrest order of Mohamed Mouadda immediately and unconditionally;
- urging that Mohamed Mouadda's allegations of ill-treatment be promptly, impartially and independently investigated;
- protesting at the practice by the Tunisian authorities of subjecting released prisoners of conscience to continuous harassment;
- calling for all human rights and political activists to be able to carry out their non-violent activities and associations free from fear of arrest and intimidation, in accordance with international human rights standards.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Justice
M. Abdallah Kallel
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Boulevard Bab Benat
Tunis, Tunisia

Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice, Tunis, Tunisie
Telexes: 13000 maet tn (via Ministère de l'Intérieur)
Faxes: +216 1 568 106
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

2) Minister of the Interior
M. Mohamed Ben Rejeb
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur
Av. Habib Bourguiba
Tunis, Tunisia
Telegrams: Ministre de l'Intérieur, Tunis, Tunisia
Telex: 13662 sdap tn
Fax: +216 1 340888
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Tunisian Human Rights League
Me Taoufik Bouderbala, Président
Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme, LTDH
7 Rue Pierre Curie
Tunis, Tunisia

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 20 August 1997