

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/42/96

9 December 1996

Further information (3) on UA 108/95 (MDE 30/11/95, 9 May 1995) and follow-up (MDE 30/16/95, 21 June 1995 and MDE 30/40/96, 22 November 1996) - Health concern / Prisoner of conscience

**TUNISIAN** Najib El Baccouchi, member of the *Union Générale des Etudiants Tunisiens* (UGET, General Union of Tunisian Students)

---

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that prisoner of conscience Najib El Baccouchi, who has been on hunger strike since 13 November 1996, has been beaten and ill-treated in Gafsa prison and continues to be denied access to his family and lawyers. His family went to the prison on 21 and 28 November and on 5 December, but were denied permission to visit him on each occasion. His lawyers have also been unable to visit him for the past few months, in violation of Article 70 of the Tunisian Code of Penal Procedure (*Code de Procédure Pénale*, CPP). On 27 November his case was reviewed by the Cassation Court which confirmed his conviction and sentence. All legal avenues for appeal have now been exhausted.

Amnesty international is concerned about Najib El Baccouchi's health, especially since during a previous hunger strike (in January 1995) he suffered from a kidney failure.

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

- expressing concern at reports that Najib El-Baccouchi has been beaten and ill-treated in Gafsa Prison, and at the denial of access to his family;
- urging that Najib El-Baccouchi be allowed immediate access to his family and to medical care if necessary;
- urging that a full, independent and impartial investigation be promptly carried out into allegations that he was beaten and ill-treated, and that the findings of the investigation be made public.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of Justice

M. Sadok Chaâbane  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
Boulevard Bab Benat  
Tunis, Tunisia

**Fax: +216 1 568 106**

**Telex: 13000 maet tn (via Ministère de l'Intérieur)**

**Telegram: Ministre de la Justice Chaâbane, Tunis, Tunisie**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency**

2) Minister of the Interior

M. Mohamed Jegham  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
Av. Habib Bourguiba  
Tunis, Tunisia

**Fax: +216 1 340 888**

**Telegram: Ministre de l'Intérieur, Tunis, Tunisie**

**Telex: 13662 sdap tn**

2

**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

3ème étage, appt.10

1000 TUNIS, Tunisia

**Fax: +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 20 January 1997.