

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 30/18/00

29 August 2000

Further information on UA 232/00 (MDE 30/16/00, 4 August 2000) and follow-up (MDE 30/17/00, 15 August 2000) - Health concern / prisoner of conscience

TUNISIATaoufik CHAIEB, 45, teacher

Prisoner of conscience Taoufik Chaieb has now been on hunger strike for 51 days. Amnesty International is very concerned at this situation, and is urging that he be released unconditionally into the care of an independent medical team.

After 40 days on hunger strike prisoners risk permanent damage to their health, though they may live another few weeks after this turning point. While the striker's mental faculties can remain sharp, a number of physical problems may arise, including loss of hearing, deteriorating eyesight and kidney problems. After 51 days on hunger strike, Taoufik Chaieb is at increasingly serious risk of irreversible damage to his health and of death.

According to his wife, who visited him on 25 August, Taoufik Chaieb could not move, was hardly able to keep his eyes open and spoke with difficulty. He has said that he will continue his hunger-strike until his demands are met.

Taoufik Chaieb is in solitary confinement in prison in Tunis, where conditions have been made even worse by a heat wave, with temperatures of over 40°C.

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

- expressing concern about the health of prisoner of conscience Taoufik Chaieb;
- calling for him to be placed under constant medical surveillance;
- calling for him to be immediately and unconditionally released.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior
M. Abdallah KALLEL
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur
Avenue Habib Bourguiba
1001 Tunis, Tunisia

Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Tunis, Tunisia

Faxes: + 216 1 340 888

E-mail: mint@ministeres.tn

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

Presidential Councillor for Human Rights

M. Dali JAZI
Conseiller Spécial auprès du Président de la République,
chargé des droits de l'homme
Palais Présidentiel
Tunis
Tunisia

Fax: + 216 1 571314

Salutation: Monsieur le Conseiller / Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

M. Afif Hendaoui

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Ministre Délégué chargé des Droits de l'Homme
Bureau du Premier Ministre
Place du Gouvernement
La Kasbah
1006 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 10 October 2000.