

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 30/07/99

4 March 1999

Further information on UA 33/99 (MDE 30/04/99, 24 February 1999) and follow-up (MDE 30/06/99, 1 March 1999) - Ill-treatment/Incommunicado detention

TUNISIA Abdelmoumen BELANES
 Fahem BOUKADDOUS

Abdelmoumen Belanes was transferred to the 9 Avril prison in Tunis on 2 March 1999. Amnesty International has learned that during the nine days he spent in incommunicado detention he was severely beaten, first in Bouchoucha police station and then in the Ministry of the Interior, both in Tunis.

It is not yet known what charges have been brought against him, but he is reportedly accused of having links with an unauthorized association or criminal gang. He has been imprisoned on similar charges before.

Fahem Boukaddous, who was also beaten and ill-treated at Bouchoucha police station, is reportedly still detained in very poor conditions at the 9 Avril prison. He is sharing a cell with more than 100 others, many of whom smoke, which aggravates his severe asthma.

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

- expressing concern that Abdelmoumen Belanes and Fahem Boukaddous were reportedly beaten and ill-treated during secret detention in Bouchoucha Police Station (both of them) and in the Ministry of the Interior (Belanes);
- urging that a prompt, independent and impartial investigation be carried out into the allegations;
- urging that Fahem Boukaddous and Abdelmoumen Belanes be allowed an independent medical examination and necessary medical care;
- reiterating that Amnesty International considers Fahem Boukaddous and Abdelmoumen Belanes to be prisoners of conscience and calling for their immediate and unconditional release;
- reminding the government of Tunisia of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 5: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Justice

M. Abdallah Kallel

Ministre de la Justice

Ministère de la Justice

31 Boulevard Bab Benat

1006 Tunis

Tunisia

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Tunis, Tunisia

Faxes: + 216 1 568 106

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

Minister of the Interior

M. Ali Chaouch

Ministre de l'Intérieur

Ministère de l'Intérieur

Avenue Habib Bourguiba

1001 Tunis

Tunisia

Telegrams: Ministre Intérieur, Tunis, Tunisia

Faxes: + 216 1 340 888

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

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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 15 April 1999.