

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 28/15/98

9 February 1998

Further information on UA 36/98 (MDE 28/14/98, 6 February 1998) - Fear for safety / "Disappearance" / Legal concern

ALGERIA Karim Khelili, 35, mentally handicapped

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Karim Khelili was released from incommunicado detention at the *Commissariat* (police station) of Cinq Maisons, in El Harrache, and returned to the care of his family in the afternoon of 7 February 1998.

Karim Khelili was arrested by the Algerian security forces at his grand-mother's home in the evening of 4 February and reportedly beaten. His brother Farid had been arrested the same evening and released a few hours later, after having reportedly been subjected to threats of torture.

The reason alleged for Karim Khelili's arrest was his possession of a photo depicting a group of soldiers from a nearby barracks. However, the possession of such a photo is not a recognizable legal offense (neither internationally nor according to Algerian law), and no charges appear to have been brought against him. Amnesty International believes that Karim Khelili was arrested as a consequence of his father's involvement in human rights work.

No further action is needed by the Urgent Action Network. Thanks to all those who sent appeals.