

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 30/16/98

Further information on UA 48/98 (MDE 30/04/98, 13 February 1998) and follow up MDE 30/09/98, 13 March 1998 - Fear for safety / Fear of imprisonment as prisoner of conscience and new concern: Health concern 12 June 1998

TUNISIA Radhia Nasraoui, Human rights lawyer

and new name: Oussaima Nasraoui, daughter of above, aged 9 (f)

There are fears for the safety of Radhia Nasraoui and her family who continue to suffer extreme harassment at the hands of the security forces including a feigned kidnap attempt on her daughter, Oussaima Nasraoui, on 6 June 1998 by two security policemen as she was entering her house.

The stress of being under constant surveillance is likely to be the cause of health problems experienced by Oussaima Nasraoui, who has developed a skin allergy and respiratory problems.

On 11 March Radhia Nasraoui was charged *in absentia* (at the time she was observing a trial in Mali on behalf of Amnesty International) on identical charges to those brought against 15 students she is currently defending (see UA 59/98, MDE 30/05/98, 24 February 1998 and follow ups). The charges include: belonging to a terrorist group, holding unauthorized meetings, inciting rebellion, spreading false information aiming to disturb public order, defamation against the authorities and distribution of leaflets.

On her return from Mali, 30 March, she was summoned before the examining magistrate and ordered to stay within the confines of the capital Tunis, severely restricting her right to practice as a lawyer.

A pattern of harassment has ensued. In April, Oussaima Nasraoui was questioned at length at school by a teacher concerning the whereabouts of her father, Hamma Hammami. He is being sought by the authorities and has subsequently gone into hiding.

Since the end of March, Radhia Nasraoui has reportedly been constantly followed by plain clothes security police on a motorbike and in two cars, one of which reportedly tried to run her down in April. A similar incident occurred on 24 May when the motorcyclist also appeared to attempt to run her over.

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

- expressing concern that Radhia Nasraoui and her family are being severely harassed at the hands of the security forces on account of her human rights work and professional duties;
- recalling the Tunisian authorities to respect the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

APPEALS TO:

If someone answers the phone on a fax number please say: "je voudrais envoyer un fax, s'il vous plaît"

Minister of Justice
M. Abdallah Kallel
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice

2

31 Boulevard Bab Benat
1006 Tunis, Tunisie

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Tunis, Tunisie

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 , Tunisie

Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Tunis, Tunisie

Faxes: + 216 1 354 331

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

Faxes: + 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 24 July 1998.