

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/02/97

2 January 1997

Further information on EXTRA 71/96 (MDE 30/14/96, 20 May 1996) and follow-up (MDE 30/16/96, 29 May; MDE 30/20/96, 3 July; MDE 30/22/96, 18 July; MDE 30/25/96, 27 August; MDE 30/26/96, 30 August; MDE 30/27/96, 17 September; MDE 30/29/96, 30 September; MDE 30/36/96, 1 November) - Legal concern / Prisoner of conscience / Health concern

TUNISIA Khemais CHAMMARI, human rights activist, former parliamentarian

Khemais Chammari was released from prison on 30 December after serving five months of a five-year sentence, having been accused of "disclosing a national secret to a foreign power" in a trial during which, according to an Amnesty International observer, no convincing evidence was produced to substantiate the charges against him.

His release is reported to be conditional, although the conditions are not entirely clear at the moment.

Amnesty International considered Khemais Chammari to be a prisoner of conscience imprisoned solely for his conscientiously-held beliefs, and members of the UA Network and other AI members sent thousands of appeals calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

Mohamed Mouadda, another prisoner of conscience, was also released on the same day.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals on behalf of Khemais Chammari. UA participants may wish to send a further round of letters or faxes:

- welcoming the release of Khemais Chammari;
- urging the authorities to lift conditions related to his release.

TO:

Président M. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali
Président de la République
Palais Présidentiel
Tunis/Carthage
Tunisie

Faxes: +216 1 744721

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

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

Faxes: +216 1 568 106 or 567 070

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

M. Habib Ben Yahia
Ministre des Affaires étrangères
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
Place du Gouvernement
La Kasbah, Tunis, Tunisia

Faxes: + 216 1 567 386 or 216 1 567 050 or 216 1 568 050

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Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Tunisian Human Rights League

Me Taoufik Bouderbala, Président

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TUNIS, Tunisia

and to diplomatic representatives of Tunisia accredited to your country.