

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/10/96

3 May 1996

Further information on UA 271/95 (MDE 30/30/95, 8 December 1995) and follow-ups (MDE 30/02/96, 11 January 1996; MDE 30/08/96, 9 April, and MDE 30/09/96, 23 April) - Possible prisoner of conscience / Torture / Health concern

TUNISIABachir ABID, student

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Amnesty International has received confirmation that Bachir Abid was rearrested on 16 April 1996 on the university campus in Sfax. His family was not informed of his arrest and for several days they were unable to find out where he was detained, or even confirmation that he had indeed been arrested. The organization is again concerned that he may be detained as a prisoner of conscience and that he may be at further risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Bachir Abid had been previously released on bail on 19 March 1996 after almost four months' detention. He and two other students, Ali Jallouli and Abdel Moumens Belanes, had been arrested between 28 and 30 November 1995 and were held in illegally prolonged incommunicado detention in the Ministry of the Interior, where they were allegedly tortured. Ali Jallouli and Abdel Moumens Belanes were released on bail on 16 and 17 April 1996. All three are now awaiting trial on 11 May 1996. In addition they are also awaiting re-trial for sentences imposed on them *in absentia* in 1992 and 1995. To date no investigation is known to have been carried out into the allegations that they were tortured last December in the Ministry of the Interior.

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

- requesting assurances that Bachir Abid is not at risk of torture or ill-treatment, and urging that he be released if he is held as a prisoner of conscience;
- expressing concern that no investigation appears to have been carried out into allegations that Bachir Abid, Ali Jallouli and Abdel Moumens Belanes were tortured last December, and urging that the allegations be promptly, independently and impartially investigated.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of Justice

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

**Faxes: +216 1 568 106**

**Telexes: 13000 maet tn (via Ministère de l'Intérieur)**

**Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice Chaâbane, Tunis, Tunisie**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency**

2) Minister of the Interior

M. Mohamed Jegham  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
Av. Habib Bourguiba  
Tunis, Tunisia

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**Faxes: +216 1 340888**

**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur, Tunis, Tunisia**

**Telexes: 13662 sdap tn**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

Tunisian Human Rights League

Me Taoufik Bouderbala, Président

**Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme, LTDH**

21 Rue Imam el Bakri

1002 TUNIS Belvedere

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 25 June 1996.