

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/37/97

11 June 1997

Further information on EXTRA 22/97 (MDE 30/08/97 , 18 February 1997) and follow-up (MDE 30/09/97, 21 February 1997) - "Disappearance"/Fear of ill-treatment/ prisoner of conscience/ health concern

TUNISIA Abdelmajid SAHRAOUI, trade unionist (suspended)

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Amnesty International is concerned that Abdelmajid Sahraoui, a former member of the executive bureau of the *union générale des travailleurs tunisiens*, UGTT, (Tunisian General Workers Union), has been held in secret detention since his arrest on the morning of 9 June 1997 at the *Palais de Justice* (law courts). His current whereabouts are unknown.

Abdelmajid Sahraoui had gone to the law courts with three of his lawyers in order to enquire of the *juge d'instruction* (examining magistrate) the reasons why the police were searching for him. They had reportedly sought him at his home and at the houses of his relatives and friends on a number of occasions since the arrest of several other trade unionists at the end of April 1997. However, he was immediately arrested upon arrival at the law courts. His lawyers reported that the arresting officers did not have a warrant for his arrest.

Abdelmajid Sahraoui had expressed concern at being arrested, particularly in light of the fact that when he had been previously held in secret detention for over 24 hours in February 1997, the Tunisian authorities had denied that he had ever been detained.

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

- expressing concern at the "disappearance" of Abdelmajid Sahraoui following his arrest on 9 June 1997, and seeking information about his current place of detention and legal status;
- urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released as a prisoner of conscience;
- expressing concern that he may be at risk of ill-treatment whilst he is held in secret detention, and asking that he be allowed access to his family, lawyers and to independent medical assistance if necessary.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of Justice

M. Abdallah Kallel  
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, Tunis, Tunisie**

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

2) Minister of the Interior

M. Mohamed Ben Rejeb  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
Ministère de l'Intérieur

2

Av. Habib Bourguiba

Tunis , Tunisia

**Fax: +216 1 340888**

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

**Telex: 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

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 9 July 1997.