

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 29/11/96

2 August 1996

Further information on UA 160/95 (MDE 29/04/95, 6 July 1995) and follow-up (MDE 29/05/95, 10 July 1995) - Fear of torture / Unfair trial and new concern: Detention of prisoners of conscience beyond expiry of sentence

MOROCCO AND WESTERN SAHARA
Ahmed EL KOURI
Nebt Ramdane BOUCHRAYA
Arbi Brahim BABA
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M'Rabih Rabou NEYSAN
Abdel'hay KEKHAL
Mahfoud Brahim DAHOU
Salama Ahmed LEMBARKI

The eight prisoners of conscience named above remain in detention nearly three months after the expiry of their prison sentences (which was due on 11 May 1996). They are reportedly being held in Salé Prison in Rabat.

The eight were arrested on 11 May 1995 following a peaceful demonstration in Laayoune in support of the Polisario Front. They were allegedly ill-treated and tortured in pre-trial detention, before being tried on 21 June by the Military Court of Rabat in a trial which violated international standards for fair trial (see original UA). They were sentenced to between 15 and 20 years' imprisonment on charges of threatening the external security and territorial integrity of the country. On 9 July their sentences were reduced to one year's imprisonment by royal pardon (see UA update MDE 29/05/95).

Their families have not been informed of the reasons for their illegally prolonged detention, and the Moroccan authorities have not replied to requests by Amnesty International and other organizations for information concerning their detention beyond expiry of their sentences. Also, to date no independent investigation has been carried out into the prisoners' allegations that they were ill-treated and tortured in pre-trial detention.

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

- expressing serious concern that these eight prisoners of conscience are being held in illegally prolonged detention, nearly three months after the expiry of their prison sentences;
- urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released;
- reiterating calls for an independent investigation into their allegations that they were ill-treated and tortured during pre-trial detention, and if the allegations are substantiated, to bring those responsible to justice.

APPEALS TO:

MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

Abderrahmane Amalou
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Palais de la Manounia
Rabat
Maroc

Faxes: +212 7 723 710

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Rabat, Maroc

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

M Abdellatif Filali
Premier Ministre et Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
Bureau du Premier Ministre
Palais Royal
Rabat
Maroc

Faxes: +212 7 76 99 95

Telexes: 36008

Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Rabat, Maroc

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre / Dear Prime Minister

COPIES TO:

Consultative Council for Human Rights (Official Human Rights Body):
Conseil Consultatif des Droits de l'Homme (CCDH)
Place des Chouhada, B. P. 1341
Rabat

Fax: +212 7 726856

and to diplomatic representatives of Morocco accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 September 1996.