

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 28/004/2001

28 February 2001

Further information on UA 97/00 (MDE 28/06/00, 26 April 2000) - Prolonged secret detention/fear of ill-treatment/health concern

ALGERIA El Hadj M'lik

Amnesty International has just received reports that El Hadj M'lik, whose whereabouts had been unknown since his arrest more than ten months ago, has recently been seen alive in a military security centre in Ben Aknoun near the capital, Algiers. He is reportedly in poor health. His situation has been exacerbated by his advanced age and the fact that like other detainees, he is forced to sleep directly on a concrete surface without bedcovers.

El Hadj M'lik, who is in his 70s, was arrested by the security forces at his home in central Algiers on 14 April 2000 (not 13 April, as initially thought). He has been held in secret detention ever since. The authorities have denied all knowledge of his arrest.

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

- expressing concern about the prison conditions in which El Hadj M'lik is held, stressing the health risks for someone of his advanced age;
- expressing concern that he remains in secret detention, and urging that he be granted immediate access to his family and lawyers, and to any medical attention he requires;
- urging that he be immediately released unless he is charged with recognizably criminal charges, in which case he should be brought immediately before the judicial authorities, in compliance with Algerian law and international human rights treaties ratified by Algeria.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior
M. Nouredine Yazid ZERHOUNI
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur et
des Collectivités Locales
18 rue Docteur Saâdane
Alger
Algérie

Faxes: +213 21 73 61 06

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

Minister of Justice
M. Ahmed OUYAHIA
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
8 Place Bir Hakem
El Biar, Alger
Algérie

Faxes: +213 21 92 21 95

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

State Human Rights Institution reporting to the President

Maître Kamal Rezzag-Bara

Observatoire National des Droits de l'Homme (ONDH)

Palais du Peuple

Avenue Franklin Roosevelt

Alger

Algérie

Faxes: + 213 21 239037 / 239005 / 230311

and to diplomatic representatives of Algeria accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 April 2001.