

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 257/93 Fear of torture in prolonged
incommunicado detention

5 August 1993

ALGERIA: Ali, Mohieddine and Tahar DEROUICHE
Mohamed Yassine SIMOZRAG

Amnesty International is concerned that Ali, Mohieddine and Tahar Derouiche, arrested on 19 July 1993, and Mohamed Yassine Simozrag, arrested on 23 July 1993, may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment in prolonged incommunicado detention.

Mohieddine Derouiche, a former Imam in a mosque in Algiers and member of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) banned in March 1992, and his brothers, Tahar and Ali, were arrested from their place of work on 19 July and continue to be held in prolonged incommunicado detention. Their family tried without success to obtain information on their whereabouts for several days. They later learned that the three brothers were held in the detention centre, Chevalier, but were unable to obtain access to them. A fourth brother, Ahmed Derouiche, was also arrested from his place of work on 27 July and remains detained incommunicado.

Mohamed Yassine Simozrag, the 22-year-old son of a lawyer active in political cases, was arrested from his home on 23 July 1993, and remains detained incommunicado beyond the maximum period permitted by Algerian law. Despite repeated inquiries, his family and lawyers have been unable to obtain any information on his place of detention and legal status.

Under a new decree passed in October 1992, the period of incommunicado detention, when a detainee is held without access to his family or lawyer, has been extended to a maximum of 12 days for those suspected of offences against state security. However, over the past year hundreds of people have been detained in prolonged incommunicado detention for up to two months. The practice of torture and ill-treatment in incommunicado detention has become widespread, and in some centres, systematic. Amnesty International is therefore concerned that detainees in prolonged incommunicado detention are at risk of torture and ill-treatment.

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

- expressing your concern that Mohamed Yassine Simozrag and Ali, Mohieddine and Tahar Derouiche are held in prolonged incommunicado detention in contravention of Article 9 (3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPCR) which states: "Anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge..". Also stress that such a practice is in breach of Algerian law;
- urging the Algerian authorities to allow them immediate access to their families, lawyers and medical care if necessary;
- urging that no one be detained in prolonged incommunicado detention as it is during this time that detainees are most at risk of torture and ill-treatment;

APPEALS TO

1) Minister of the Interior

M. Mohamed HARDI
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur
Alger
Algérie

Telegrams: Ministre Hardi, Alger, Algérie

Telexes: 66341

Faxes: 213 2 618802 or 213 2 645793

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

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2) Minister of Justice

M. Mohamed Téguia
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
8 rue de Khartoum
El-Biar
Alger, Algérie

Telegrams: Ministre Téguia, El-Biar, Alger, Algérie

Faxes: 213 2 605161

Telexes: 66241/66178/66243

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

3) Minister of Foreign Affairs and member of the High Council of State

M. Redha MALEK
Ministre des Affaires
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
et membre du Haut Comité d'Etat
6 rue 16n- Batran
El-Mouradia
Alger
Algérie

Telegrams: Ministre Malek, El-Mouradia, Alger, Algérie

Telexes: 66241/66178/66243

Faxes: 213 2 60 51 61

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

PLEASE ALSO SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS to the following Human Rights Organizations:

Observatoire national des droits de l'homme

Palais du Peuple
Avenue F. Roosevelt
Alger, Algérie
Faxes: 213 2 60 10 42

Ligue algérienne des droits de l'homme

40-42 rue Larbi ben M'Hidi
Alger, Algérie

Ligue algérienne pour la défense des droits de l'homme

19 rue Abane Ramdane

Alger, Algérie

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 16 September 1993.