

PUBLIC

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Disappearance/ Fear of refoulement

21 April 1998

ALGERIA Mohamed Naceur el-Hani, lawyer, aged 29

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On 15 April 1998 Algerian security forces arrested Mohamed Naceur el-Hani, a Tunisian lawyer, at his home in Setif, Algeria. His arrest was carried out allegedly upon request by the Tunisian government. Amnesty International fears that he is at risk of arrest and torture if he is returned to Tunisia.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Mohamed Naceur el-Hani is a refugee under the protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Married and father of a two-year-old boy, he was an active member of the *Jeunesse Scolaire*, a student union, in Radès, Tunisia. He was expelled from Tunisian school in 1989 because of his *Jeunesse Scolaire* activities. He finally was able to pursue law in Algeria, where he qualified in 1997.

In October 1991, while on holiday in Tunis, he was arrested, tortured and held in incommunicado detention for four months. In March 1992, he was sentenced to a four-month jail sentence for belonging to an unauthorised association.

Mohamed Naceur el-Hani's passport was seized by the Tunisian Consulate in Algeria when he asked for it to be renewed in July 1996. On 20 November 1997 the Algerian authorities asked him to leave Algeria. He was recognised as a refugee by the UNHCR.

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

- urging the Algerian government to carry out an investigation into the "disappearance" of Mohamed Naceur el-Hani and that his family be informed of his whereabouts and reasons for his detention;
- urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released;
- urging that he is not returned to Tunisia where he is at risk of arrest and torture.

**APPEALS TO:**

Mohamed ADAMI  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
8 Place Bir Hakem  
El-Biar, Alger  
Algérie

**Fax: +213 2 922 560**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister**

Mustafa BENMANSOUR  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
18 rue Docteur Saâdane  
Alger  
Algérie

**Fax: +213 2 736 106**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

M. Kamel REZZAG-BARA

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Président  
Observatoire National des Droits de l'Homme (ONDH)  
Palais du Peuple  
1 Av. Franklin Roosevelt  
Alger  
Algérie  
**Fax.: +213 2 239 005 / 239 037**

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 2 June 1998.