

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: MDE 29/004/2003**

**17 June 2003**

**Further Information on UA 148/03 (MDE 29/002/2003, 28 May 2003) Prisoner of conscience/health concern**

**MOROCCO**

**Ali Lmrabet (m), journalist**

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On 17 June, a Court of Appeal in the capital Rabat sentenced Ali Lmrabet, editor-in-chief of two satirical newspapers, to three years' imprisonment; thus reducing his original four year sentence handed down by a Court of First Instance on 21 May. The Court of Appeal also confirmed the Court of First Instance's imposition of a monetary fine of 20,000 dirhams (approximately 2,000 US dollars) and of a ban on his newspapers.

Ali Lmrabet, who has been on hunger strike since 6 May, was reportedly too weak to attend the hearing at which the appeal verdict was handed down. He continues to be treated at Avicennes Hospital in Rabat, and his health is deteriorating. Amnesty International is concerned that his life is increasingly at risk and continues to call for his immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience. Ali Lmrabet has reiterated his determination to continue his hunger strike until his release.

He was imprisoned on charges of insulting King Mohamed VI, "undermining the monarchy" and "threatening the integrity of the national territory" on the basis of several articles which appeared in both the newspapers of which he is editor-in-chief. He began his hunger strike in protest at his recent court case and imprisonment.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic, French or your own language:**

- expressing continued concern for the deteriorating health of Ali Lmrabet, who has been on a hunger strike since 6 May in protest at his recent court case and imprisonment;
- calling for his immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience, jailed solely for the legitimate and peaceful expression of his beliefs.

**APPEALS TO:**

Justice Minister

M. Mohamed BOUZOUBAA

Ministre de Justice

Ministère de la Justice

Place Mamounia

Rabat, Morocco

**Telegram:     Ministre de Justice, Rabat, Morocco**

**Fax:           + 212 37 72 37 10/ 73 07 72/ 73 89 40**

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

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of Human Rights

M. Mohamed AOUJAR

Ministre des Droits de l'Homme

Ministère des Droits de l'Homme

47 Avenue Ibn Sina

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Rabat, Morocco

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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 29 July 2003.