

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information (1) on UA 160/95 (MDE 29/04/95, 6 July 1995) -Fear of Torture/Unfair Trial

MOROCCO and WESTERN SAHARA

Ahmed EL KOURI  
Nebt Ramdane BOUCHRAYA  
Arbi Brahim BABA  
Cheykhatou BOUH  
M'Rabih Rabou NEYSAN  
Abdel'hay KEKHAL  
Mahfoud Brahim DAHOU  
Salama Ahmed LEMBARKI

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On 9 July, the occasion of his birthday and a national "Celebration of Youth" day, King Hassan II has reduced to one year the sentences passed down to eight young men arrested in May 1995 during a peaceful demonstration in Laayoune in support of the Polisario Front. The eight were originally sentenced to between 15 and 20 years' imprisonment.

Those sentenced by military court have no right of appeal but may have their case reviewed by the Supreme Court through "cassation", which rules on procedures, but does not re-examine the facts of a case. It is not yet clear whether or not, after this partial pardon, the review by the Supreme Court will still take place.

Amnesty International continues to regard the eight as prisoners of conscience, arrested solely for the peaceful expression of their conscientiously-held beliefs and to call for their immediate and unconditional release. Moreover, the organization remains concerned that the defendants were allegedly tortured in order to extract "confessions" and that their trial violated international standards for fair trial.

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

- stating that, notwithstanding King Hassan II's partial pardon of Ahmed El Kouri, Nebt Ramdane Bouchraya, Arbi Brahim Baba, Cheykhatou Bouh, M'Rabih Rabou Neysan, Abdel'hay Kekhal, Mahfoud Brahim Dahou and Salama Ahmed Lembarki, Amnesty International continues to consider them prisoners of conscience and calls for their immediate and unconditional release;
- urging a thorough and independent investigation of allegations that the prisoners were tortured while awaiting trial;
- expressing continued concern that, as civilians, the young men were tried by a military court, and that the proceedings did not comply with international standards for fair trial.

**APPEALS TO:**

Justice Minister

Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
Palais de la Manounia,  
Rabat, MOROCCO

**Telegrams: Ministre Amalou, Rabat, Morocco**

**Faxes: c/o Ministry of Interior: +212 7 763011, asking that they be forwarded to the Justice Minister**

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

Minister for Human Rights

Ministre délégué auprès du Premier Ministre  
chargé des droits de l'homme  
47 Avenue Ign Sina  
Agdal  
Rabat, MOROCCO

**Telegrams: Ministre Ziyane, Rabat, Morocco**

**Faxes: +212 7 672018 / +212 7 671967**

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

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Governmental human rights body

M. Mohamed Mikou  
Secrétaire général  
Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme  
24 Place des Chouhada  
BP 1341  
Rabat, MOROCCO

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 21 August 1995.