

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 29/05/97

16 June 1997

**Further information on UA 175/97 (MDE 29/04/97, 13 June 1997) - Prisoners of conscience / Health concern / Ill-treatment**

**MOROCCO** Mostafa FAJLI, Ahmed El-AMALI, Bennacer LIMORI, Mohamed ERRAHDAOUI, Mahjoub El-MANOUARI, Boushmain ABDELHAFID, Mohamed JABRANI, Ahmed OUBANMOUSSA, Hamid KHILI, Mohamed BENAYAD, Fouad BEKKANE, Kacem El-GHAZI, Abdelkarim LARKO, Oubiz TAIBI, Aziz, BAHJAOUI, Abdelkarim DARDAR, Mostafa MEZDI, Mohamed KADOURI  
**And more than 100 others**

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The 18 people named above stopped their hunger-strike on 14 June 1997, including Ahmed Oubanmoussa and Aziz Bahjaoui who had been in hospital since 11 June because of their deteriorating health condition. These 18 people had been tried and sentenced on 9 June to two months' imprisonment and a fine of 1200 Dirhams (approximately UK£90) on charges of inciting voters to abstain from voting in the municipal elections.

In addition, Bouchra Laski, mother of a seven-month-old baby, Brahim Znider, Ali Amar, Abderrahmane Belgada, Ainous Yahia and Omar Baz, who were arrested in Rabat on 7 June, were released on bail on 13 June. The first hearing of their trial is scheduled to take place in Rabat on 18 June. Brahim Znider was reportedly ill-treated in police custody (see original UA).

The two groups of people named above are among more than 120 supporters of the *Parti de l'Avant-garde Démocratique Socialiste* (PADS), Socialist Democratic Vanguard Party arrested between 3 and 10 June 1997 in various towns in Morocco, following the call by the PADS to boycott the municipal elections which took place on 13 June 1997.

Amnesty International considers all those detained or imprisoned for having called for the boycott of the elections without having used or advocated violence as prisoners of conscience.

**Even though the serious health concern has subsided, participants who have not yet sent an appeal are encouraged to do so (faxes and mail), to the authorities listed in original UA:**

- expressing concern at the arrest of more of 120 people for their peaceful call to boycott the elections;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all those detained solely for the expression of their political ideas without having used or advocated violence;
- urging that a prompt, independent and impartial investigation be carried out into allegations that Brahim Znider was ill-treated during police custody.