

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 29/12/96

16 August 1996

Further information (3) on UA 160/95 (MDE 29/05/95, 6 July 1995) and follow-ups MDE 29/05/95, 10 July 1995, and MDE 29/11/95, 2 August 1996 - Fear of torture/unfair trial / detention of prisoners of conscience beyond expiry of sentence

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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Amnesty International has just been informed that the eight prisoners of conscience named above were released approximately three days ago.

The eight had been held since May 1996 in illegally prolonged detention in Salé Prison in Rabat, beyond the expiry of their sentences. They had been sentenced on 21 June 1995 by Rabat Military Court to between 15 and 20 years' imprisonment for their part in a peaceful demonstration in Laayoune. Their sentences had been reduced on 9 July 1995 to one year's imprisonment by royal pardon.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals on this case. No further action from the Urgent Action Network is required at present.