

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death in Custody

29 October 1991

MOROCCO

Hamid BENDOUROU

Amnesty International is gravely concerned at reports that Hamid Bendourou has died in custody after he was moved from the secret detention centre in Tazmamert where he had been held incommunicado since 1973.

Hamid Bendourou, an ex-army captain was convicted in 1972 of taking part in an attempted coup against King Hassan II and was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. Whilst serving his sentence in Kenitra Central Prison he was taken on 7 August 1973, with 60 other army personnel convicted of the same offence, to the secret detention centre in Tazmamert. They were held there incommunicado, completely cut off from the outside world, for 18 years. During this time 29 out of the 61 died from the harsh detention conditions. Hamid Bendourou was in very poor physical condition when Tazmamert was reportedly demolished and he was transferred to an undisclosed place of detention. He is reported to have since died.

After the Tazmamert detention centre was demolished its inmates were moved to an undisclosed location. Subsequently 10 prisoners have reportedly been released and two others, whose sentences have not yet expired, were transferred to Kenitra Central Prison. All those formerly held in Tazmamert are reported to be in very poor physical condition. Amnesty International is concerned that those who remain detained may not be receiving adequate medical treatment for the seriousness of their conditions and some may be close to death.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters in FRENCH or ARABIC if possible:

- expressing concern at the death in custody of Hamid Bendourou following his transfer from the Tazmamert detention centre;
- asking that a thorough and impartial investigation into the cause of death of Hamid Bendourou be carried out, that the findings be made public, and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- urging that a public inquiry be held into the deaths of the 29 other prisoners during their detention at Tazmamert;
- expressing concern about the poor physical condition of the prisoners formerly detained in Tazmamert and asking that they be given adequate medical treatment

and be allowed prompt access to their families.

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APPEALS TO:

1) (The King)

Sa Majesté

Sire

King Hassan II

Bureau de Sa Majesté le Roi

Palais Royal, Rabat, Maroc

Telegrams: H.M. King Hassan, Rabat, Maroc

Telexes: 31744 or 32908

2) (Minister of Justice)

M. Moulay Moustapha

Excellence

Ministre de la Justice Belarbi Alaoui

Ministère de la Justice

Palais de la Manounia, Rabat, Maroc

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Rabat, Maroc

Telexes: 36888

3) (Minister of the Interior)

M. Driss Basri

Excellence

Ministre de l'Intérieur

Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Information

Quartier Administratif, Rabat, Maroc

Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Rabat, Maroc

Telexes: 36161, 36731, 36969 ProCivile Rabat, Maroc

4) (Minister of Foreign Affairs)

M. Abdellatif Filali

Excellence

Ministre des Affaires Etrangères

Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération

Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, Rabat, Maroc

Telegrams: Ministre Affaires Etrangères, Rabat, Maroc

Telexes: 36014, 36707, 36117, 36064

5) (Minister of Health)

M. Tayeb Bencheikh

Excellence

Ministre de la Santé

Ministère de la Santé

335 Avenue Mohammad V, Rabat, Maroc

Telegrams: Ministre Santé Publique, Rabat, Maroc

Telexes: 32816 DATSANTE M or 32998 DAASANTE M

6) (Prime Minister)

Dr Azeddine Laraki

Excellence

Premier Ministre

Bureau du Premier Ministre

Palais Royal, Rabat, Maroc

Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Rabat, Maroc

Telex: 36008 GouvMaroc Rabat, Maroc

COPIES TO:

Comité de Coordination

Association marocaine

des droits de l'homme

5 Zankat Soussa

Rabat, Maroc

Organization marocaine

des droit de l'homme

24 Avenue de France

Agdal

Rabat, Maroc

and to diplomatic representatives of Morocco in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section if sending appeals after 10 December 1991.