

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/01/93
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Date: 8 April 1993

MEDICAL CONCERN

**Thameur JAOUA
TUNISIA**

Amnesty International is concerned for Thameur Jaoua, a 28-year-old political prisoner who was arrested in January 1993 while convalescing from back surgery and who is said to be without access to adequate medical care. Although clearly in a weak state, he is reported to have been beaten in prison.

BACKGROUND

Thameur Jaoua was arrested on 31 January 1993 at a clinic in Tunis where he is reported to have been convalescing following surgery for a slipped disc. He is reported to have been beaten in prison, and to have been coughing blood since the ill-treatment. Recently-received information confirms that he is in a very poor state, his condition having deteriorated since arrest, and he is reported to be virtually unable to walk. A prison doctor has recommended that he be transferred to hospital in order to receive proper care but the prison director is reported to have refused such a transfer. In addition to this, medicines prescribed following his surgery are not allowed into the prison. The scar at the site of his surgery is now reported to have re-opened and there are fears that he could suffer serious consequences if he does not receive the specialist attention he requires.

Thameur Jaoua was charged with supporting the illegal Islamic party *al-Nahda* and sentenced to 14 months' imprisonment. Over the last two years over 10,000 supporters of *al-Nahda* have been arrested and detained. Large numbers are reported to have been tortured and ill-treated in incommunicado detention and forced to sign statements under torture which were later used as evidence during their trials. Many trials have fallen short of acceptable standards with charges often vaguely formulated and supported only by forced confessions. Thameur Jaoua has himself been subjected to torture on previous occasions during short periods of detention in earlier years.

Amnesty International is urging the Tunisian authorities to ensure his immediate transfer to hospital without further delays and to provide guarantees that he will be given access to all the medical care he requires.

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Middle East
Date: 8 April 1993

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

**Thameur JAOUA
TUNISIA**

Keywords

Theme: ill-health/ medical care

Summary

Thameur Jaoua is a 28-year-old prisoner who was arrested in January 1993 while convalescing from surgery for a slipped disc. He is reported to have been beaten while in prison and is without access to adequate medical care. Recent information indicates that his problems have worsened; he is now said to be virtually unable to walk and the scar at the site of his operation is reported to have re-opened. There are fears that he could suffer serious consequences unless he is given prompt access to proper medical attention. Although the prison doctor has recommended his transfer to hospital, the prison director is reported to have refused to permit this.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses below:

- expressing concern that Thameur Jaoua is without adequate medical care and attention in Sfax prison although he is suffering from very debilitating vertebral problems which have resulted in seriously reduced mobility
- noting with concern that although his transfer to hospital has been recommended, this has not been permitted and asking the reasons for this
- further expressing concern that he is reported to have been beaten and ill-treated in prison and expressing concern that his ill-treatment and the denial of proper medical attention may have prejudiced his chances of post-operative recovery and placed him at risk of serious consequences
- noting that he is also reported to have been coughing blood since his ill-treatment
- seeking information on his present state and urging that he is admitted to hospital without further delay in order to receive the medical attention and treatment he requires

Addresses

M. Abdallah Kallel
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur
Avenue Habib Bourguiba
Tunis
Tunisia
(Minister of the Interior)

**Telegrams: Ministre Intérieur,
Tunis, Tunisia**
Telexes: 13662 sdap tn

M. Sadok Chaabane
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Boulevard Bab Benat
Tunis
Tunisia
(Minister of Justice)

**Telegrams: Ministre Justice,
Tunis, Tunisia**
Faxes: (+216) (1) 568 106

M. Daly Jazi
Ministre de la Santé publique
Ministère de la Santé publique
Bab Saadoun
Tunis
Tunisia
(Minister of Health)

Copies to

Ambassador Rachid Driss
Président du Comité Supérieur des Droits de l'Homme
et des Libertés Fondamentales
44, rue de Pologne
Bab Saadoun
Tunis
Tunisia
(Governmental human rights body)

Fax: (+216) (1) 574 638 or (+216) (1) 270 646

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