

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index:MDE 30/04/94
Distr: UA/SC

20 January 1994

Further information on UA 277/93 (MDE 30/08/93, 18 August 1993) - and follow-ups: MDE 30/10/93, 27 August 1993, MDE 30/12/93, 6 September, MDE 30/13/93, 28 September and MDE 30/14/93, 1 October 1993 - Fear of Torture

TUNISIA:Salaheddine ZIKIKOUT

Salaheddine Zikikout was sentenced on 21 October 1993 to 18 months' imprisonment for membership of an unauthorized organization and the unauthorized collection of funds. The sentence was upheld on appeal on 18 January 1994.

He was arrested on 8 August 1993 and held incommunicado in *garde à vue* detention for 53 days, in breach of Tunisian law which allows a maximum 10-day period of incommunicado detention. During the time he was held in *garde à vue* detention, Amnesty International contacted the Tunisian authorities on several occasions seeking information on his whereabouts and legal status, but was unable to obtain any information. When he was finally brought to trial his arrest date on the police records had been falsified to conceal the illegally prolonged *garde à vue* detention.

Both the Court of First Instance and the Appeal Court refused to investigate these serious breaches of procedure, and the allegations of ill-treatment during *garde à vue* detention which lead to his confession to the police. Both the trial and the appeal violated international standards for fair trial to which Tunisia is a state party. Amnesty International believes that Salaheddine Zikikout should be retried or released.

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

- expressing concern that Salaheddine Zikikout was allegedly ill-treated during incommunicado detention which was illegally prolonged beyond the maximum ten-day period allowed under Tunisian law;
- urging the authorities to investigate allegations that he was ill-treated in incommunicado detention and the reasons for his illegally prolonged incommunicado detention;
- expressing concern that both the Court of First Instance and the Appeal Court failed to order an investigation into the above allegations.
- urging the Tunisian authorities to ensure that Salaheddine Zikikout is retried or released;

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Justice
M. Sadok Chaâbane
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Boulevard Bab Benat
Tunis
Tunisie

Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice Chaabane, Tunis, Tunisie
Telexes: 13000 maet tn (via Ministère de l'Interieur)
Faxes: 216 1 568106 or 567070
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

2) Minister of the Interior

M. Abdallah Kallel
 Ministre de l'Interieur
 Ministère de l'Interieur
 Av Habib Bourguiba
 Tunis
 Tunisie

Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur Kallel, Tunis, Tunisia
Telexes: 13662 sdap tn
Faxes: 216 1 340888
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

3) Minister of Foreign Affairs

M. Habib Ben Yahia
 Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
 Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
 Place du Gouvernement
 La Kasbah
 Tunis
 Tunisie

Telegrams: Ministre des Affaires Etrangères Ben Yahia, Tunis, Tunisie
Telexes: 14470 mafta tn 14471 mafta tn 14472 mafta tn
Faxes : 216 1 791005
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights Organisations

M. Rachid Driss
 Président
 Commission Supérieure des Droits
 de l'Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales
 85 Avenue de la Liberté
 Tunis
 Tunisie
Faxes: 216 1 784037

M. Iadh Ouederni
Conseiller Présidentiel chargé des droits de l'homme
 Palais Présidentiel
 Carthage/Tunis
 Tunisia
Faxes: 216 1 731 009

and to diplomatic representatives of Tunisia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 March 1994.