

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Health Concern/Wrongful Detention

11 June 1993

TUNISIA: Naoufel Ziadi

Amnesty International is concerned that Naoufel Ziadi, the General Secretary of the Tunisian Students' Union, UGET, has been wrongfully detained since 18 May 1993 and is being denied adequate medical care. As a prominent critic of the Tunisian Government within the Student Union, Amnesty International believes that he is being held for his non-violent conscientiously held beliefs.

Naoufel Ziadi, who is in poor physical condition, underwent open-heart surgery in 1988 and has an artificial valve. He also suffers from kidney problems, and needs to take medication under supervision. However, since his detention on 18 May, he has only seen a prison doctor once and subsequent requests for adequate medical care have been ignored.

He was arrested on 18 May 1993 after having been sentenced *in absentia* to 2 years' imprisonment for the use of illegal drugs. He was convicted on the basis of accusations made by a detainee during his interrogation. However, during a court hearing on 5 June the detainee withdrew his allegations and stated that he had never seen Naoufel Ziadi before. Major factual inaccuracies in his previous description of Naoufel Ziadi indicate that he may have been referring to another person bearing the same name.

Despite the fact that the accusations against Naoufel Ziadi were withdrawn in court, and that there was no other evidence against him, he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

Amnesty International is concerned that he is not being allowed access to adequate medical care, and that he is being detained as a punishment for his outspoken criticisms of the Tunisian Government.

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

- expressing your concern that Naoufel Ziadi is being denied adequate medical care for his serious condition, and urging that he be given immediate medical treatment as necessary;
- expressing concern that Naoufel Ziadi has been wrongfully detained and convicted, and is being held for the non-violent expression of his political views;
- urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released.

APPEALS TO

1) President:

M. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali
Président de la République
Palais Présidentiel
Tunis/Carthage
Tunisie

Faxes: 216 1 744721

Telexes: 14900 prpsa tn 12163 ppsd tn

Salutation: Monsieur le Président/Dear President

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2) Minister of Justice:

M. Sadok Chaâbane
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Boulevard Bab Benat
Tunis
Tunisie

Faxes: 216 1 568106 or 567070

Telexes: 13000 maet tn (via Ministère de l'Interieur)

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/ Dear Minister

3) Minister of the Interior:

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

Faxes: 216 1 340888

Telexes: 13662 sdap tn

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

M. Rachid Driss
Président
Commission Supérieure des Droits
de l'Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales
24 Rue Docteur Kalmet Mutuelle-Ville
Tunis
Tunisie

Faxes: 216 1 270646 or 796593

and to diplomatic representative of Tunisia accredited to your country. The World Conference on Human Rights is being held in Austria this month and you can enhance the power of your appeals by also sending copies to the diplomatic representative of Tunisia in Austria during June at the following address:

The Tunisian Embassy:

The Ambassador
Botschaft der Republik Tunesien

Ghegastrasse 3, 1030 Wien
Austria

Faxes: +43 222 78 73 41

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 July 1993.