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Fear of Torture/Ill-Treatment and Legal Concern 19 April 1995

TUNISIA

Mehdi JARRAR

Mehdi Jarrar has been held incommunicado since his reported arrest on 29 or 30 March 1995, double the maximum 10-day legal limit permitted under Tunisian law. He is at risk of torture or ill-treatment as long as he remains incommunicado.

Mehdi Jarrar, a Tunisian asylum-seeker in France, travelled to Malta in March 1995 where he was detained and expelled to Tunisia by the Maltese authorities, reportedly arriving in Tunis on 29 or 30 March 1995. Since that time his family have been unable to establish his whereabouts or legal status, despite repeated enquiries with the Tunisian authorities. There have been reports that he was detained in the Ministry of the Interior.

Mehdi Jarrar arrived in France in 1992 to seek political asylum after he was reportedly sentenced on political charges to a prison term *in absentia*. His wife and five children were prevented from leaving Tunisia to join him in France.

Amnesty International is concerned for Mehdi Jarrar's well-being in view of the continuing practice by the Tunisian authorities of holding suspected political opposition activists in illegally prolonged incommunicado detention, during which time many are ill-treated or tortured.

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

- expressing concern that Mehdi Jarrar is being held in prolonged incommunicado detention in breach of Tunisian law and of international standards, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Tunisia is a state party;
- expressing concern that Mehdi Jarrar is at risk of torture and ill-treatment as long as he is held incommunicado, and stating that he should be promptly brought before a judge;
- calling for Mehdi Jarrar to be given prompt access to his family and a lawyer and to medical care if necessary;
- seeking information of his whereabouts and legal status.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of the Interior

M. Mohamed Jegham
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur
Av Habib Bourguiba
Tunis
Tunisie

Faxes: +216 1 340 888

Telexes: 13662 sdap tn

Telegrams: Ministre de l'Intérieur, Tunis, Tunisie

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

2) Minister of Justice

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

Faxes: +216 1 573 756

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

Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice Chaâbane, Tunis, Tunisie

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

M. Salem Makki
Conseiller Présidentiel chargé des droits de l'homme
Palais Présidentiel
Carthage/Tunis
Tunisia

Faxes: +216 1 731 009 or +216 1 742 513

Me Taoufik Bouderbala, Président
Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme, LTDH
21 Rue Imam el Bakri
1002 TUNIS Belvedere
Tunisia
Fax: +216 1 801 599

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 31 May 1995.