

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 30/11/93

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Further information on UA 260/93 (MDE 30/07/93, 6 August 1993) and follow-up: MDE 30/09/93, 19 August 1993 - Fear of torture and new concern: Prisoner of conscience

TUNISIA:Tawfik RAJHI

Tawfik Rajhi was sentenced on 31 August 1993 to two years imprisonment and two years administrative control on charges of membership of an unauthorized organization (the Islamic movement al-Nahda). No evidence was brought to court of his membership to al-Nahda, and there was no charge or evidence that he had ever used or advocated violence. Amnesty International considers him as a prisoner of conscience.

After his arrest on 26 July he was held in illegally prolonged incommunicado detention for 23 days, during which his family and Amnesty International tried to no avail to obtain information on his whereabouts.

He stated in court that during incommunicado detention he was ill-treated and forced to sign a police statement without knowing the content, but no investigations into the allegations were ordered by the court.

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

- expressing your concern that Tawfik Rajhi was imprisoned as a prisoner of conscience and ask for his immediate and unconditional release;
- urging the authorities to ensure that the allegations that he was ill-treated during illegally prolonged incommunicado detention are thoroughly and impartially investigated;
- urging the authorities to ensure that no one is held in illegally prolonged incommunicado detention, as it is during this time that detainees are most at risk of ill-treatment.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Justice:

M. Sadok Chaâbane

Ministre de la Justice

Ministère de la Justice

Boulevard Bab Benat

Tunis, Tunisie

Telegrams: Minstre de la Justice Chaâbane, Tunis, Tunisie

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

Faxes: + 216 1 568106, + 216 1 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, Tunisie

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 Minstre / Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights Organization:

M. Rachid Driss

Président

Commission Supérieure des Droits

de l'Homme et des Libertées Fondamentales

85 Avenue de la Liberté

Tunis, Tunisie

Faxes: + 216 1 270646, + 216 1 796593

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 14 October 1993.