

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 125/03 (MDE 30/004/2003, 07 May 2003) Fear of torture or ill-treatment

TUNISIA Tarek Ferchichi (m) aged 27

Tarek Ferchichi, who is being detained at the *9 avril* prison in the capital Tunis, has now been seen by a lawyer. He has also reportedly been charged with spreading false information. At his request no information about his treatment in detention can be made public.

The arrest of Tarek Ferchichi may be connected to the fact that his brother, Béchir Ferchichi, an asylum seeker in France, has made allegations about the suspicious death in Tunisian custody of an alleged friend of his, Maher Osmani in late April 2003. According to media reports, the Tunisian authorities have issued statements denying the existence of Maher Osmani and his suspicious death in custody. Human rights lawyers in Tunisia are continuing in their efforts to investigate the case.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is required from the UA Network.