

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 30/12/95
Distr: UA/SC

9 May 1995

Further information on EXTRA 12/95 (MDE 30/03/95, 6 February 1995) and follow-up (MDE 30/06/95, 23 February) - Fear of unfair trial / Prisoner of conscience

TUNISIA Mohamed KILANI, leading member of unauthorized *Parti Communiste des Ouvriers Tunisiens*, PCOT, Tunisian Workers' Communist Party

On 27 April 1995, Mohamed Kilani was sentenced to an additional five years' imprisonment on charges of possessing a leaflet. He had already been sentenced to two years' imprisonment on 22 February 1995 on charges of supporting an unauthorized association, and holding unauthorized meetings. The leaflet was allegedly found in his house by police who had searched his home in his absence. It is reported to have contained a caricature of the former Tunisian Minister of the Interior and is believed to have been produced by an Islamist group in 1991, when Mohamed Kilani was the editor of the left-wing newspaper *El Badil* (suspended in 1991).

The trial, which had been postponed several times because the defence lawyers were not allowed to make copies of the leaflet, finally took place in Tunis on 27 April in the absence of the defence lawyers (to date, their request to make copies of the leaflet has still not been met). Mohamed Kilani was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, under Article 52bis of Tunisian law which refers to "terrorist" activities.

The date for Mohamed Kilani's appeal has not yet been set. Amnesty International considers Mohamed Kilani to be a prisoner of conscience and calls for his immediate and unconditional release.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the new five-year prison sentence imposed on Mohamed Kilani on 27 April 1995 (following a sentence of two years' imprisonment imposed on 22 February);
- calling for his immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience.

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 (dialling tone may change before fax connects)

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; 568 106

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 20 June 1995.