

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

6 March 1992

TUNISIA:

Noureddine MABROUK

Amnesty International is concerned that Noureddine Mabrouk is being held incommunicado in prolonged *garde à vue* detention and may be at risk of torture.

Noureddine Mabrouk, a 27-year-old secondary school teacher, and suspected sympathizer of the illegal Islamic association al-Nahda (Renaissance), was arrested on 3 February 1992, and has since been held incommunicado beyond the maximum 10-day-period for *garde à vue* detention allowed by Tunisian law.

Noureddine Mabrouk was arrested from the high school in Bizerta where he was teaching and was reportedly taken to Bouchoucha police station. Amnesty International has received reports that he was later seen in the Ministry of the Interior handcuffed and bearing marks of ill-treatment. He was described by an eye-witness as looking "tired and beaten".

In 1987 Noureddine Mabrouk was arrested for being a sympathizer of al-Nahda. He was detained for five months, and then released without charge. During his detention in 1987, he was allegedly tortured and beaten. He is known to have suffered an internal haemorrhage from the severity of the blows. Since his recent arrest in February his family have been trying to obtain information on his whereabouts and legal status from the Tunisian authorities but without success.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At least 8,000 supporters and sympathizers of the al-Nahda, have been arrested and detained over the last year. Hundreds have been tortured and at least nine of these political detainees have died in circumstances that strongly suggest that they died under torture.

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

- urging that Noureddine Mabrouk be allowed immediate access to his family and lawyers, and that he receive all necessary medical care;
- expressing concern at reports that Noureddine Mabrouk was seen in the Minister of the Interior bearing marks of ill-treatment and urging the Tunisian authorities to investigate these reports and ensure that those responsible for torture or ill-treatment be brought to justice;
- urging that Noureddine Mabrouk be immediately released unless he is charged

with a recognizable criminal offence and brought to trial;

- expressing concern that Nouredine Mabrouk is being held in illegally prolonged *garde à vue* detention.

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APPEALS TO:

1. President:

Son Excellence

Président Zine El Abidine Ben Ali

Président de la République

Palais Présidentiel

Tunis/Carthage, Tunisie

Telegrams: President Ben Ali, Tunis, Tunisia

Telexes: 14900 prpsa tn; 12163 ppsd tn

Faxes: 216 1 74 4721

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

2. Minister of the Interior:

M. Abdallah Kallel

Ministre de l'Interieur

Ministère de l'Interieur

Avenue Habib Bourguiba

Tunis, Tunisie

Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Tunis, Tunisia

Telexes: 13662 sdap tn

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

3. First Presidential Counsellor for Human Rights:

M. Sadok Chaabane

Conseiller Présidentiel chargé des Droits de l'Homme

Palais Présidentiel

Carthage/Tunis

Tunisie

Telegrams: Conseiller Presidentiel charge des Droits de l'Homme,

Palais Presidentiel, Carthage/Tunis, Tunisia

Faxes: + 216 1 744721 or + 216 1 742513

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

4. Minister of Justice:

M. Abderrahim Zouari

Ministre de la Justice

Ministère de la Justice

Boulevard Bab Benat

Tunis, Tunisie

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Tunis, Tunisia

Faxes: + 216 1 568 106

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organization:

Ligue Tunisienne de la Défense des Droits de l'Homme

23 rue du Yemen

Tunis, Tunisia

Faxes: + 216 1 795 466

and to diplomatic representatives of Tunisia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section Office if sending appeals after 17 April 1992.