

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/14/97

12 March 1997

Further information on UA 208/96 (MDE 30/23/96, 22 August 1996) and follow-ups (MDE 30/24/96, 27 August 1996 and MDE 30/11/97, 7 March 1997) - Fear of torture or ill-treatment / Probable prisoners of conscience / Fear of arrest as POC / "Disappearance" / Prisoner of conscience

TUNISIA Abdel Moumen BELANES, student

Amnesty International has just received information that Abdel Moumen Belanes, arrested on 6 March 1997 by members of the national guard outside Monastir court, was transferred on 10 March to the 9 Avril prison in Tunis. Following his arrest on 6 March he was initially held in the national guard station in Ariana, a suburb of Tunis. He was then moved to Bouchoucha police station, and from there transferred to 9 Avril Prison.

Abdel Moumen Belanes was reportedly threatened with torture during his secret detention. His lawyers, who saw him for the first time since his arrest on 11 March, had requested on 8 March that he undergo a medical examination. However, no examination is known to have taken place to date. Abdel Moumen Belanes is believed to have been accused of insulting a prison guard during a previous period of detention in Bourj al-Amri prison near Tunis.

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

- expressing concern that Abdel Moumen Belanes was threatened with torture during secret detention, and urging that he not be subjected to torture or ill-treatment during his continuing detention;
- noting that his lawyer has requested a medical examination to be carried out on Abdel Moumen Belanes, and reiterate that the detainee should be allowed access to independent medical assistance if necessary;
- calling for Abdel Moumen Belanes to be immediately and unconditionally released as a prisoner of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Justice

M. Abdallah Kallel
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Boulevard Bab Benat
Tunis, Tunisia

Faxes: +216 1 568 106

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

Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice Chaâbane, Tunis, Tunisie

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

2) Minister of the Interior

M. Mohamed Ben Rejeb
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur
Av. Habib Bourguiba
Tunis, Tunisia

Fax: +216 1 340888

Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur, Tunis, Tunisie

Telex: 13662 sdap tn

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Tunisian Human Rights League
Me Taoufik Bouderbala, Président
Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme, LTDH
7 Rue Pierre Curie
TUNIS, Tunisia
Faxes: + 216 1 336 338

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 28 April 1997.