

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**25 March 1992**

**Further information on UA 79/92 (MDE 30/13/92, 6 March 1992) - Fear of Torture/Legal and Health Concerns (please note new additional concerns)**

**TUNISIA:Noureddine MABROUK**

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On the 18 March 1992 Noureddine Mabrouk was transferred from Bouchoucha Police station to the 9 avril prison in Tunis and is no longer held incommunicado *garde à vue* detention. Amnesty International has received reports that Noureddine Mabrouk was tortured while being held in prolonged incommunicado *garde à vue* detention. He will be tried on 30 March 1992 on charges of membership of an illegal organization and for attending unauthorized meetings.

Noureddine Mabrouk, a suspected sympathizer of the illegal Islamist organization *al-Nahda* (Renaissance) was arrested on the 3 February 1992, and held incommunicado beyond the maximum 10-day-period for *garde à vue* detention allowed by Tunisian law. He was held at Bouchoucha Police station and the Ministry of Interior. He was allegedly stripped to his underpants and severely beaten. Amnesty International has also received reports that he was tortured in the *poulet rôti* method (the position whereby the victim is trussed up and tied to a horizontal pole by hands and feet bound in front and then, usually, beaten). The organization is gravely concerned that when detainees complain of torture during trial proceedings the allegations remain uninvestigated and medical examinations are often refused. Amnesty International believes that all torture allegations should be immediately investigated and the victims compensated even if no formal complaint has been lodged.

The Tunisian Government has frequently declared that torture is unacceptable but has failed to conduct impartial investigations into widespread torture allegations, make public its findings, bring perpetrators to justice and compensate the victims.

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

- expressing concern that Noureddine Mabrouk was allegedly severely beaten and tortured while held in *garde à vue* detention;
- calling upon the Tunisian Government to immediately investigate these allegations, even if no formal complaint has been lodged, and bring anyone found responsible to justice;
- urging that if the allegations are proved the Tunisian Government should

provide Nouredine Mabrouk with immediate independent medical supervision and compensation;

- express concern that Nouredine Mabrouk was held in illegal *garde à vue* detention for longer than the 10-day maximum limit allowed for in Tunisian law.

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**APPEALS TO**

1) Minister of the Interior:

M. Abdallah Kallel

Ministre de l'Intérieur

Ministère de l'Intérieur

Avenue Habib Bourguiba

Tunis, Tunisie

**Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Tunis, Tunisia**

**Telexes: 13662 sdap tn**

**[Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency]**

2) 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:**

First Presidential Counsellor for Human Rights:

M. Sadok Chaabane

Conseiller présidentiel chargé des droits de l'homme

Palais Présidentiel

Carthage/Tunis

Tunisie

**Faxes: 216 1 744721 or 742513**

Human Rights Organization:

Ligue tunisienne de la défense des droits de l'homme

23 rue du Yémen

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 6 May 1992.