

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/15/97

19 March 1997

Further information (4) on UA 208/96 (MDE 30/23/96, 22 August 1996) and follow-ups MDE 30/24/96, 27 August 1996, MDE 30/11/97, 7 March 1997, and MDE 30/14/97, 12 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

Abdel Moumen Belanes, arrested on 6 March, is currently on a hunger strike which he began on 17 March in protest at new charges brought against him, which he denies, and at poor conditions of detention. He was brought to court on 18 March on charges of disturbing public order. He is accused of having said that Tunisian newspapers are full of lies during a previous period of detention last year. The trial was postponed to 25 March.

Amnesty International is concerned that Abdel Moumen Belanes, who was tortured during a previous detention at the end of 1995, may be at risk of further ill-treatment as a result of his hunger strike. Prisoners on hunger strike in Tunisia have often been punished by being held chained and undressed in solitary confinement.

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

- calling for Abdel Moumen Belanes to be immediately and unconditionally released as a prisoner of conscience;
- reiterating concern that Abdel Moumen Belanes was threatened with torture during secret detention, and urging that he not be subjected to ill-treatment during his continuing detention;
- seeking assurances that he will be allowed any necessary medical attention during his detention;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that his trial on 25 March be held in full compliance with international standards for fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

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, Tunis, Tunisie

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

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'Intérieur, Tunis, Tunisie

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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 30 April 1997.