

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/17/96

29 May 1996

Further information on UA 113/95 (MDE 30/13/95, 18 May 1995) and follow-up (MDE 30/14/95, 31 May 1995) - Fear of torture / Health concern / Legal concern / Prisoner of conscience

TUNISIAHafedh BEN GHARBIA, aged 31, electrical engineering student

Hafedh Ben Gharbia was released on 22 May 1996, approximately two months before the expiry of his prison sentence.

Hafedh Ben Gharbia had been arrested on 21 April 1995 upon his arrival in Tunisia to visit his family, and held in incommunicado detention for several weeks. He was tried in Tunis on 27 May 1995 and sentenced to 14 months' imprisonment on charges of participating in a meeting and demonstration in Germany in 1988. His prison sentence was confirmed on appeal, and he was further sentenced to five years' administrative control.

The Tunisian authorities have also released Sofiane Mourali, a Tunisian student in Germany who was arrested at about the same time as Hafedh Ben Gharbia and in similar circumstances. Sofiane Mourali was sentenced on 18 May 1995 to three years' imprisonment and five years' administrative control, on charges of belonging to an unauthorized association (the Islamist party *al-Nahda*), and participating in unauthorized meetings.

The two students are still allegedly subjected to administrative control, which means that they have to report at a police station several times a week and cannot leave Tunisia for the next five years. They are thus unable to return to Germany to finish their studies.

Amnesty International welcomes their releases, which the organization has sought since their arrests, but remains concerned that they are subjected to administrative control.

No action by the Urgent Action Network is requested.