

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 30/019/2003

17 July 2003

Further Information on UA 209/03 (MDE 30/018/2003, 11 July 2003) Fear of torture / incommunicado detention

TUNISIA

Mohammed ben Hedi Naouar (m), aged 37

Mohammed ben Hedi Naouar was released from detention without charge at 2pm on 16 July. Earlier on the same day he had been brought before an examining judge in Tunis where he was reportedly questioned about his links with Amnesty International, and his relationship with his cousin, Belgacem Naouar, who has been in detention since April 2002, in connection with the explosion of a truck outside a synagogue in Djerba that killed 21 people.

According to information received by Amnesty International, Mohammed ben Hedi Naouar was transferred to Medenine, southern Tunisia, for one night following his arrest on 5 July. The next day he was taken to the Ministry of the Interior in Tunis where he was held until the morning of 12 July. He was then transferred to *Gorjani* detention centre in Tunis. According to his lawyer the arrest date was falsified on the police records, indicating that he had been arrested on 12 July, one week after his actual arrest.

His brother thanked Amnesty International on his behalf for the fast and effective action on this case.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Please send a final round of appeals in Arabic, French, English or your own language:

- expressing concern that Mohammed ben Hedi Naouar was held in secret detention for several days and that his arrest date was allegedly falsified on the police records;
- requesting the authorities to investigate why safeguards against secret detention, as stipulated in Tunisian law, were not respected;
- asking that Mohammed ben Hedi Naouar will not be subjected to further arbitrary arrest or harassment by the security forces.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior

M. Hédi M=henni

Ministère de l=Intérieur

Avenue Habib Bourguiba

1000 Tunis

Tunisia

Telegram: Minister of the Interior, Tunis, Tunisia

Fax: + 216 71 340 888

E-mail: mint@ministeres.tn

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

M. Bechir Tekkari

Ministère de la Justice et de Droits de l'Homme

31 Av. Bab Benat

1006 Tunis, La Kasbah, Tunisie

Telegram: Ministre de la Justice, Tunis, Tunisie

Fax: + 216 71 568 106
E-mail: mju@ministeres.tn
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Official human rights body, reporting to the President

Comité supérieur des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales

Zakaria Ben Mustapha (Président)

85 avenue de la Liberté - 1002 Tunis-Belvédère – Tunisie

Fax: + 216 71 796 593 / 784038

and to diplomatic representatives of Tunisia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.