

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 30/26/94  
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Further information on UA 69/94 (MDE 30/06/94, 22 February 1994) and follow-ups (MDE 30/07/94, 1 March, MDE 30/09/94, 11 March, MDE 30/10/94, 18 March, MDE 30/12/94, 8 April, MDE 30/14/94, 11 May, MDE 30/19/94, 29 June, MDE 30/23/94, 12 December, MDE 30/25/94, 16 December) - Torture/Prisoner of Conscience/Health and Legal Concern/Cruel Degrading Treatment

**TUNISIA: Hamma HAMMAMI, member of the unauthorized *Parti communiste des ouvriers tunisiens* (PCOT), Tunisian Workers' Communist Party**

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Hamma Hammami was again denied access to his family and lawyers, from 17 December until 20 December 1994, when he was transferred from Mahdia Prison to Nadhour Prison.

While Hamma Hammami was still on hunger-strike in Mahdia Prison, prison guards attempted to forcibly feed him. Despite his clear refusal to be given nutrition and in contradiction to accepted norms of medical ethics as articulated in the World Medical Association Declaration of Malta, the guards attempted to forcibly feed him in a manner which was cruel, degrading and potentially dangerous. His hands were handcuffed behind his back while the guards held him by the neck, kept his nose closed and attempted to pour milk into his mouth through a funnel. Hamma Hammami sustained injuries to his gums after he was punched on the mouth to force it open, following his resistance to these attempts to forcibly feed him.

Hamma Hammami ended his hunger-strike after 13 days, on 20 December.

Amnesty International does not take a position against forcible feeding unless it is carried out in a deliberately cruel and degrading manner.

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

- expressing concern, that once again, Hamma Hammami was denied access to his lawyer and family, from 17 to 20 December 1994, and urging that he be given full access to them;
- deploring the cruel, degrading and potentially dangerous manner in which prison guards at Mahdia Prison attempted to forcibly feed Hamma Hammami;
- repeating that Hamma Hammami is a prisoner of conscience and should be immediately and unconditionally released.

**APPEALS TO: (Salutation for all: Excellence / Your Excellency)**

1) Minister of Justice

M. Sadok Chaâbane  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
Boulevard Bab Benat  
Tunis, Tunisie

**Faxes: +216 1 568 106 or +216 1 567 070**

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

**Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice Chaâbane, Tunis, Tunisie**

2) Minister of the Interior

M. Abdallah Kallel

Ministre de l'Intérieur  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
Avenue Habib Bourguiba  
Tunis, Tunisie  
**Faxes: +216 1 340 888**  
**Telexes: 13662 sdap tn**  
**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Intérieur Kallel, Tunis, Tunisie**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

M. Salem Makki  
**Conseiller Présidentiel chargé des droits de l'homme**  
Palais Présidentiel  
Carthage/Tunis  
Tunisia  
**Faxes: +216 1 731 009 or +216 1 742 513**

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 5 February 1995.