

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/26/97

12 May 1997

Further information on UA 247/96 (MDE 30/35/96, 25 October 1996) and follow-ups (MDE 30/37/96, 7 November; MDE 30/43/96, 10 December) - Health concern / Prisoner of conscience

TUNISIAMohamed Hedi JOUINI, carpenter, aged 36

Prisoner of conscience Mohamed Hedi Jouini was conditionally released from prison on 6 May 1997. Like other prisoners of conscience conditionally released in the last few months, he has not been informed of all the conditions attached to his release, but he has to report to the police three times a day in his local town and once a month to the central district police station.

Mohamed Hedi Jouini, who was serving a three and a half years' prison sentence on charges of membership of an unauthorized organization and participation in unauthorized meetings, had been imprisoned as a prisoner of conscience since October 1991, with the exception of a brief interlude between May and June 1996. He had been repeatedly convicted for the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and association.

He had undertaken a number of hunger-strikes protesting at his detention as a prisoner of conscience, during which he had reportedly been ill-treated, and had been denied medical attention.

Three of his brothers, Mohamed-Naceur, Mohamed-Ali and Younes, all prisoners of conscience, were released upon expiry of their sentences in the past few months. Another brother, Naoui, also a prisoner of conscience, continues to serve his prison sentence.

Several prisoners of conscience have been conditionally released in the past few months in Tunisia. They were not informed of the specific conditions attached to their release, but Article 357 of the Tunisian Code of Penal Procedures provides for various measures which may be imposed on conditionally released prisoners, including house arrest or the imposition of administrative control (whereby the released prisoners is required to report to the police daily, weekly or even several times a day). Administrative control is also often imposed, either by court decision or arbitrarily, on prisoners of conscience released after expiry of their sentence. One of the prisoners of conscience released in the past few months has been placed under house arrest after he issued an open letter criticizing the restrictions imposed by the authorities on political activities and on freedom of expression and association (see UA 122/97, MDE 30/23/97, 29 April 1997).

If you can, please send letters to the Tunisian authorities calling for the administrative control imposed on Mohamed Hedi Jouini to be lifted, and reminding them that Amnesty International considered him to be a prisoner of conscience and called for his immediate and UNCONDITIONAL release.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Justice
M. Abdallah Kallel
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Boulevard Bab Benat

2

Tunis, Tunisia

Faxes: +216 1 568 106

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

2) 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

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.