

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/33/97

30 May 1997

Further information on UA 270/96 (MDE 30/39/96, 21 November 1996) and follow-up (MDE 30/44/96, 11 December) - Fear of torture / Legal concern / Prisoner of conscience

TUNISIARadhia AOUIDIDI (f), aged 27

Amnesty International has just received information that the pre-trial detention of prisoner of conscience Radhia Aouididi has been renewed for a further four months.

Radhia Aouididi, who has reportedly been charged with the possession of a false document, forgery and conspiracy, was arrested on 9 November 1996 at Tunis-Carthage airport and reportedly found to be in possession of a false Belgian passport. She had been intending to travel to France to be reunited with her fiancé who has refugee status there.

She was initially held in *garde à vue* (incommunicado) detention beyond the 10-day limit permitted by Tunisian law, during which she was beaten, ill-treated and threatened with rape. She was transferred in December 1996 to Mannouba women's prison in Tunis, where she continues to be held.

Radhia Aouididi had been subjected to periodic harassment at the hands of the security forces in Tunisia prior to her arrest. She had been arrested and detained briefly on two occasions in 1984 and 1987, during which she was ill-treated and interrogated about the political activities of other members of her family and her fiancé, and was also denied a passport and had her identity card confiscated.

Radhia Aouididi's case will soon be transferring to other AI networks for action, but in order to keep up the pressure in the meantime, UA participants are requested, if possible, to send a final round of letters/faxes in French, Arabic, English or your own language:

- expressing concern that Radhia Aouididi continues to be detained as a prisoner of conscience. Continue to call for her immediate and unconditional release;
- expressing concern that she was beaten, ill-treated and threatened with rape during illegally prolonged *garde à vue* detention. Urge that a full, independent and impartial investigation be carried out into her ill-treatment, that the results of this investigation be published within reasonable time, and that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Justice

M. Abdallah Kallel
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Boulevard Bab Benat
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

2

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.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 July 1997.