

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/48/96

17 December 1996

Further information (2) on UA 15/96 (MDE 30/03/96, 25 January 1996) and follow-up MDE 30/05/96, 22 February 1996 - Fear of ill-treatment / Health concern / Prisoner of conscience

TUNISIA Mohamed Hedi SASSI

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Mohamed Hedi Sassi, a member of the illegal *Parti communiste des ouvriers tunisiens* (PCOT, Tunisian Workers' Communist Party), was released conditionally by the Tunisian authorities on 14 December.

Mohamed Hedi Sassi had been arrested in April 1994 and was serving a total sentence of three years and four months' imprisonment for supporting the PCOT, insulting public order, distributing leaflets and writing a verse of the Tunisian poet Abu Al-Kacem Chabbi's poem, "*The chains must be broken*" on a wall. He had been beaten and tortured in detention before and after his trial (see follow-up UA MDE 30/03/96, 25 January 1996).

Amnesty International welcomes his release, which the organization had sought since his arrest, including in thousands of appeals from the Urgent Action Network. However, it remains concerned that the charges against him have not been dropped.

No further action by the Urgent Action Network is requested at present. Thanks again to all who sent appeals.