

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/49/96

17 December 1996

Further information on UA 108/95 (MDE 30/11/95, 9 May 1995) and follow-ups (MDE 30/16/95, 21 June 1995; MDE 30/40/96, 22 November 1996; MDE 30/42/96, 9 December 1996) - Health concern / Prisoner of conscience and Ill-treatment

**TUNISIAN** **Najib El Baccouchi, member of the executive bureau of *Union Générale des Etudiants Tunisiens* (UGET, General Union of Tunisian Students)**

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On 11 December 1996, Najib El Baccouchi stopped his hunger-strike, which he had begun on 13 November to protest against his imprisonment on a charge of racism, which he denies. During his hunger-strike he was beaten and ill-treated and denied access to his family and lawyers (see previous update, MDE 30/42/96, 9 December 1996). He has now been visited by his family.

On 27 November his case was reviewed by the Cassation Court which confirmed his conviction and sentence. All legal venues for appeal have now been exhausted.

Najib El Baccouchi has condemned racism as contrary to his beliefs and to his long-standing political commitment with UGET, the student union (see previous UAs).

After studying his dossier, Amnesty International has concluded that Najib El Baccouchi is being imprisoned solely for his peaceful political beliefs.

**PLEASE CONTINUE to send faxes/express/airmail letters in French, Arabic, English or in your own language:**

- calling for a full, independent and impartial investigation to be promptly carried out into allegations that Najib El-Baccouchi was beaten and ill-treated whilst on hunger-strike, and that the findings of the investigation be made public;
- continuing to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Najib El Baccouchi as a prisoner of conscience.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of Justice

M. Sadok Chaâbane  
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 Jegham  
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  
3ème étage, appt.10  
1000 TUNIS, Tunisia  
**Fax: +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 31 January 1997.