

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AFR 23/06/91**

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**15 October 1991**

**Further information on UA 305/91 (AFR 23/05/91, 11 September 1991) - Medical Concern**

**DJIBOUTI:Aref Mohamed Aref, lawyer**

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Amnesty International has been informed that soon after UA 305/91 was issued on 11 September 1991 Aref Mohamed Aref, who had been suffering from tachycardia (abnormally rapid heartbeat) and food poisoning, was transferred to hospital - Hôpital Peltier, in the capital, Djibouti. After treatment he has now been returned to Ali-Adde prison at Dikhil near the Ethiopian border.

The authorities have still made no statement on when Aref Mohamed Aref, former Prime Minister Ali Aref Bourhan (his uncle) and others arrested with them in January 1991 (see UA 20/91, AFR 23/01/91, 21 January) will be brought to trial before the special security tribunal, where they will face the death penalty.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Aref Mohamed Aref, a 39-year-old lawyer, who has previously defended political prisoners in Djibouti, was arrested on 13 January 1991 together with his uncle, Ali Aref Bourhane, aged 57, a prominent government opponent and former Prime Minister (président du gouvernement) before independence from France in 1977, and many other members of the Afar ethnic group. Aref Mohamed Aref, his uncle and over a dozen others were later charged with attempting to overthrow the government (atteinte à la sécurité de l'Etat), for which the death penalty could be imposed.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/faxes/airmail letters in French if possible:**

Participants in the original appeal may if they wish write again to the Djibouti authorities:

- welcoming Aref Mohamed Aref's transfer to hospital and medical treatment;
- asking for continued observation of his health in the remote Ali-Adde prison;
- stating also Amnesty International's concern at his prolonged pre-trial detention and that of Ali Aref Bourhane and others arrested with him, and that the court which would try his case, the state security tribunal, does not meet international standards of fair trial;
- expressing the fear that Aref Mohamed Aref may be detained solely on account

of his non-violent opposition to the government.

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**APPEALS TO:**

**1.**

Son Excellence Monsieur Hassan Gouled APTIDON  
Président de la République  
La Présidence  
Djibouti, République de Djibouti

**Son Excellence**

**Telegrams: President Aptidon, La Presidence, Djibouti**  
**Faxes: + 253 3550 49; + 253 3501 74**

**2.**

Son Excellence Monsieur Barkad Gourad HAMADOU  
Premier Ministre  
Office du Premier Ministre  
BP 2086, Djibouti, République de Djibouti

**Son Excellence**

**Telegrams: Premier Ministre Hamadou, Djibouti**

**3.**

Monsieur Ahmed Boulaleh BARREH  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
BP 2086, Djibouti, République de Djibouti

**Monsieur**

**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur Barreh, Djibouti**

**4.**

Monsieur Ismael Omar GUELLE  
Chef du cabinet présidentiel  
La Présidence  
BP 6, Djibouti, République de Djibouti

**Monsieur**

**Telegrams: Chef du cabinet presidentiel, Djibouti**

**COPIES TO:**

**1.**

Mohamed Djama ELABE  
Ministre de la Santé  
Ministère de la Santé  
Djibouti, République de Djibouti

**2.**

Monsieur Ougoureh Hassan IBRAHIM  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
BP 12  
Djibouti, République de Djibouti

**3.**

Monsieur Moumin Bahdon FARAH  
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères  
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères  
BP 1863  
Djibouti, République de Djibouti

and to diplomatic representatives of Djibouti in your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 November 1991.