

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 29/003/2004

8 January 2004

Further Information on UA 148/03 (MDE 29/002/2003, 28 May 2003) and follow-ups (MDE 29/004/2003, 17 June 2003, and MDE 29/007/2003, 24 June 2003) - Prisoner of conscience / health concern

MOROCCO

Ali Lmrabet (m), journalist

---

Ali Lmrabet was released on the evening of 7 January 2004. Editor-in-chief of the satirical independent newspapers, *Demain Magazine* and *Doumane*, he had been held in Salé Prison, near the capital, Rabat, since 21 May 2003.

His release was the result of a royal pardon issued on 7 January to around 25 political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, and several others who were being tried on political charges. However, dozens of political prisoners convicted in unfair trials are still in custody.

Adopted as a prisoner of conscience, at the time of his release Ali Lmrabet had been on hunger strike since 30 November in protest at his continued detention. He had previously undertaken a 47-day hunger strike in May last year in protest at his trial and imprisonment, and had to be admitted to hospital.

Ali Lmrabet warmly thanked Amnesty International for the action on his behalf, saying that it gave him strength while in prison to hear of the international solidarity with him and of the campaign for his release launched in many parts of the world. He concluded with a reminder of the need to continue a campaign on behalf of the remaining political prisoners in the country who did not benefit from the royal pardon.

**No further action from the network is required. Thank you to all those who sent appeals.**