

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 29/10/97

17 December 1997

Further information on UA 388/97 (MDE 29/09/97, 10 December 1997) -  
"Disappearance" / Fear of torture and ill-treatment / Legal concern / Possible  
prisoners of conscience

MOROCCO / WESTERN SAHARA Ali Salem Mohamed Salem El Mami (alias Tamek), born  
in 1974  
Youssef Abderrahman, born in 1948

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Ali Salem Mohamed Salem El Mami (*alias* Tamek) and Youssef Abderrahman were released on 12 December 1997. They had reportedly been ill-treated.

The two men were arrested on 2 December 1997 in Dakhla, Western Sahara, reportedly in connection with their support for the *Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el Hamra y Río de Oro* (Polisario Front), a movement seeking the independence of Western Sahara.

A communiqué issued by the Association of Families of Victims and Disappeared attributes their release to international intervention, **in particular AI**.

No further action by the UA Network is requested. However, participants in this action may send letters to the authorities listed in the original Urgent Action:

- expressing concern that Ali Salem Mohamed Salem El Mami and Youssef Abderrahman appear to have been arrested and held in secret detention solely for the non-violent expression of their beliefs;
- expressing concern that they were ill-treated during secret detention;
- urging that a full, independent and impartial investigation be carried out into their ill-treatment, that the results of this investigation be made public, and that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

Thank you to all who sent appeals on this case.