

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 29/26/91  
Distrib: PG/SC/CC

Date: 12 September 1991

*@ RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MOROCCAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS RELATING TO PRISON CONDITIONS,  
MEDICAL CARE OF PRISONERS AND INVESTIGATION OF  
CASES OF DEATH IN DETENTION*

Serious and wide-ranging human rights violations have been committed in Morocco since the 1960s, including the long-term imprisonment of prisoners of conscience, torture and unfair trials of political opponents. Since February 1991 the Moroccan Government has taken certain actions to improve its human rights record. It has released members of the Oufkir family who had been detained for over 18 years without charge or trial. In June 1991 Amnesty International learned that a number of "disappeared" Western Saharans, held in secret detention for up to 15 years, had been released, and in August 1991, 40 political prisoners were released under a royal amnesty. (These included two men who had been on continuous hunger-strike since 1985 - see MDE 29/21/91, 7 November 1990). While welcoming these moves, Amnesty International remains concerned at human rights violations in Morocco and is anxious that further substantial measures are taken to secure greater safeguards against abuses.

In May 1990 the Moroccan *Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme* (CCDH: Consultative Council on Human Rights) was established by King Hassan II. The CCDH has met on a number of occasions and has submitted reports to the King which recommend a number of reforms aimed at guarding against abuses against detainees and at improving the sanitary and health-care facilities in prisons and other places of detention. In December 1990, the CCDH recommended several reforms to the law on incommunicado [*garde à vue*] detention, including a 48 hour limit to such detention. The proposed reform of *garde à vue* detention was approved by the Council of Ministers on 27 December 1990, and was passed by the Moroccan parliament without amendments on 25 April 1991, but has not yet been signed by the King. Reforms leading to the restriction of incommunicado and preventative detention are particularly important as it is during such detention that ill-treatment and torture of detainees most commonly occurs in Morocco (as in many other countries). The most important changes recommended by the CCDH are:

- .to pay more attention to the health of prisoners
- .to ensure that prisoners' conditions are reviewed at least every three months
- .to maintain contact with a wide range of humanitarian and human rights organizations
- .to introduce human rights education in various official institutes
- .to strengthen central [prison] inspection
- .to improve conditions of remand prisoners
- .to require an autopsy in cases of death in custody

The full list of recommendations thus far made to the King by the CCDH are appended (both in French and English). Amnesty International urges the speedy implementation of the suggested reforms as a first step towards the protection of human rights in Morocco.

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To: Medical professionals  
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Middle East  
Date: 12 September 1991

*MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION*

*RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MOROCCAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS RELATING TO PRISON CONDITIONS,  
MEDICAL CARE OF PRISONERS AND INVESTIGATION OF  
CASES OF DEATH IN DETENTION*

**Keywords**

Theme: death in detention/ incommunicado detention/ medical care/ prison conditions/ human rights commission

**Summary**

In February 1991 a human rights body established by King Hassan II submitted three reports to the King. These recommended important protections to detainees, such as improved provision of health care for prisoners; the ratification of international treaties, regular inspection of prison conditions; and several specific recommendations relating to prisoners' rights. While welcoming these moves as an important step in the right direction, Amnesty International remains concerned at human rights violations in Morocco and is anxious that further substantial measures are taken to secure greater safeguards against abuses. [Note: the memoranda from the CCDH to the King are attached for your information, though letters can be written on the basis of the summary below and the external AI sheet attached]

**Recommended Actions**

Letters from medical professionals, preferably written in Arabic or French, otherwise your own language, should be sent to the addresses below:

- welcoming the recommendations of the Consultative Council on Human Rights submitted to the King in February 1991 (you could mention some of the recommendations such as
  - . more attention to be given to the health of prisoners
  - . prisoners' conditions are reviewed at least every three months
  - . contact to be maintained with a wide range of humanitarian and human rights organizations
  - . human rights education to be introduced in various official institutes
  - . central [prison] inspection to be strengthened
  - . conditions of remand prisoners to be improved
  - . an autopsy to be carried out in all cases of death in custody)

- noting that the CCDH's previous recommendations on *garde à vue* detention have been approved by the parliament and urging that the King sign the bill to bring it into law
- asking how and when the other recommendations will be implemented
- urging the prompt adoption of the recommended changes as a contribution to the protection of human rights in Morocco

### Addresses

#### *The King*

Sa Majesté  
Le Roi Hassan II  
Palais Royal  
Rabat  
Morocco

#### *The Minister of Justice*

Son Excellence Moustapha Belarbi Alaoui  
Ministre de la Justice,  
Ministère de la Justice,  
Palais de la Mamounia  
Rabat, Morocco

#### *Minister of the Interior*

Son Excellence Driss Basri  
Ministre de l'Intérieur,  
Ministère de l'Intérieur,  
Quartier Administratif,  
Rabat, Morocco

### COPIES TO:

Please send copies of your appeals to any of the following members of the CCDH.

Monsieur Mohamed Larbi El Majboud  
Président  
Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme  
Place des Chouhada  
BP 1341  
Rabat  
Morocco

Monsieur Mohamed Mikou  
Magistrat  
Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme  
Place des Chouhada  
BP 1341  
Rabat  
Morocco  
(Secretary General of CCDH)

Monsieur Abderrazak Gannoun  
 Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme  
 Conseil national des médecins  
 Place des Chouhada  
 BP 1341  
 Rabat  
 Morocco

[M. Gannoun is the Moroccan Medical  
 Association representative on the CCDFH]

**and also to the following human rights organizations:**

Comité de Coordination de l'Association et  
 de la Ligue marocaine des droits de l'homme  
 5 Zankat Soussa,  
 Rabat, Morocco.

Organisation marocaine des droits  
 l'homme  
 24 Avenue de France  
 Agdal  
 Rabat, Morocco

and to Moroccan diplomatic representatives in your country.