

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 29/35/91

Distr: UA/SC

19 December 1991

Further information on UA 426/91(MDE 29/31/91, 5 December 1991) - Ill-treatment and Hunger-Strike and new concern Health Concern

MOROCCO: Mohamed El Boukili (note corrected name)
Abdel Moumen Chbari
Abdallah Hosni
Hassan Sayeb
Abdessalam Chefchauoni
Ahmed Ben Massoud
Brahim Ait Belaid (note corrected name)

and new names: Brahim Miftah
Mimoun Sabi
Abderrahim Rifla
Mohamed Dari
Abdelhadi Kamil
Khalid Bakhti
Abdelaziz Insaf

and 20 others

Amnesty International is concerned about the health of the 34 prisoners, including eight prisoners of conscience, who are at present on the 24th day of a hunger-strike against ill-treatment in Oukacha Prison. Three of those on hunger-strike are said to be in a serious condition: Abdel Moumen Chbari is now said by his family to be in a coma in the Mohammed V Hospital in Casablanca and Brahim Ait Belaid has apparently also been hospitalised. Seven Islamist prisoners are said to be now in the Averroes Hospital, Casablanca; Brahim Miftah is reported to be in a dangerous condition. Others are said to be in the prison infirmary or held in their cells.

On 23 November 1991 political prisoners at Ghbila Prison were moved to Oukacha Prison where all their personal belongings were confiscated, including medicines, clothes, blankets, books, radios, televisions and some appliances which they used to heat their food. The hunger-strike was begun on 25 November after many or all of them had suffered beating and severe ill-treatment by a large number of prison guards. The guards at Oukacha reportedly include a number of those formerly accused of torturing prisoners at Laalou Prison (closed by the Moroccan Government in 1989) and at Derb Moulay Cherif, a secret detention centre in Casablanca. The eight prisoners of conscience, including Abdel Moumen Chbari, Brahim Ait Belaid and Mohamed El Boukili, who were arrested in 1985 and sentenced in 1986 to up to 20 years' imprisonment for allegedly belonging to an illegal Marxist group, Ila'l-Amam, were reportedly undressed, handcuffed and severely beaten by the guards. Twenty-six Islamist prisoners, including possible prisoners of conscience, who were sentenced to up to life imprisonment in 1984, 1985 and 1986, were also beaten and also began their hunger-strike on 25 November.

The hunger-strikers are reportedly not being allowed visits by members of their families, who have sent appeals to the Ministry of Justice and the prison governor without response. Both groups of prisoners have in the past undertaken several hunger-strikes complaining about issues such as ill-treatment, insufficient medical treatment and restrictions on their right to receive visits.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters (if possible in French or Arabic):

- expressing concern at reports that Abdel Moumen Chbari is in a coma and that Ait Belaid Brahim and Brahim Miftah are in a serious condition;

page 2 of FU 426/91

- urging the Moroccan authorities to find a solution to this situation to prevent loss of life or permanent damage to the health of the hunger-strikers;

- expressing concern that they have reportedly been deprived of their medicines, seeking information on their present condition and seeking assurance that they are getting the necessary medical treatment;

- urging that an investigation be carried out into the incident of ill-treatment which led the prisoners to begin their hunger-strike and asking for the prison officials responsible to be brought to justice;

APPEALS TO:

1) Sa Majesté
King Hassan II
Bureau de Sa Majesté le Roi
Palais Royal
Rabat, Maroc
Telegrams: King Hassan II, Rabat, Maroc
Telexes: 31744 or 32908

[Salutation: Sire/Your Majesty]

2) M. Driss Basri Excellence,
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur
et de l'Information
Quartier Administratif
Rabat, Maroc
**Telegrams: Ministre Interieur Rabat,
MAROC**
**Telexes: 36161, 36731, 36969 ProCivile
Rabat, Maroc
31008**

[Salutation: Excellence/Your Excellency]

3) Moulay Moustapha Belarbi Alaoui
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Palais de la Manounia
Rabat, Maroc
Telegrams: Ministre Justice Rabat MAROC
Telexes: 36888

[Salutation: Ministre/Dear Minister]

4) M. Abdellatif Filali
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
Ministère des Affaires
Etrangères et de la Coopération
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt
Rabat, Maroc
**Telegrams: Ministre Affaires Etrangères,
Rabat, MAROC**
Telexes: 36014, 36707, 36117, 36064

[Salutation: Ministre/Dear Minister]

5) M. Tayeb Bencheikh
Ministre de la Santé
Ministère de la Santé
335 Avenue Mohammad V
Rabat, Maroc
Telegrams: Ministre Santé Rabat MAROC
**Telexes: 32816 DATSANTE M or 32998
DATSANTE M**

[Salutation: Ministre/Dear Minister]

6) Dr Azeddine Laraki
Premier Ministre
Bureau du Premier Ministre
Palais Royal
Rabat, Maroc
**Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Rabat,
Maroc**
Telexes: 36008 GouvMaroc Rabat, Maroc

[Salutation: Premier Ministre/Dear Prime Minister]

7) Le Directeur,
Prison de Oukacha
Ain Sebaa
Casablanca

[Salutation: Monsieur le Directeur]

COPIES TO:

Comité de Coordination
Association marocaine des droits de l'homme
5 Zankat Soussa
Rabat, Maroc

Organization marocaine des droits de
l'homme
24 Avenue de France
Agdal
Rabat, Maroc

and to diplomatic representatives of the Moroccan Government in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 January 1992.