

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/08/96

9 April 1996

Further information on UA 271/95 (MDE 30/30/95, 8 December 1995) and follow-up (MDE 30/02/96, 11 January 1996) - Possible prisoners of conscience / Torture / Health concern

TUNISIABachir ABID  
Ali JALLOULI  
Abdel Moumens BELANES

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Amnesty International has learned that Bachir Abid was released on bail on 19 March 1996 pending trial. The court also ordered the release on bail of Abdel Moumens Belanes and Ali Jallouli, but they remain detained in connection with prison sentences they had received *in absentia* in 1992 and 1995 respectively. The case has been transferred from the criminal court to the court of first instance, and the charge of setting up a criminal association appears to have been dropped.

Bachir Abid, Abdel Moumens Belanes and Ali Jallouli were arrested between 28 and 30 November 1995 and were reportedly tortured whilst held in illegally prolonged incommunicado detention in the Ministry of the Interior. No investigation is known to have been carried out to date into complaints lodged by their defence lawyers, who confirmed that they still bore torture marks several days later.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French/Arabic/English or in your own language:**

- welcoming the release on bail of Bachir Abid, but expressing concerns that Abdel Moumens Belanes and Ali Jallouli may be held as prisoners of conscience, and if this is the case they should be immediately and unconditionally released;
- urging the authorities to ensure that a full, independent and impartial investigation is carried out into the allegations that they were tortured and ill-treated during incommunicado detention.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of Justice

M. Sadok Chaâbane  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
Boulevard Bab Benat  
Tunis, Tunisia

**Faxes: +216 1 568 106**

**Telexes: 13000 maet tn (via Ministère de l'Intérieur)**

**Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice Chaâbane, Tunis, Tunisie**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency**

2) Minister of the Interior

M. Mohamed Jegham  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
Av. Habib Bourguiba  
Tunis, Tunisia

**Faxes: +216 1 340888**

**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Intérieur, Tunis, Tunisie**

**Telexes: 13662 sdap tn**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency**

3) Minister of Foreign Affairs

M. Habib Ben Yahia

Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Ministère des Affaires étrangères

Place du Gouvernement

La Kasbah, Tunis, Tunisia

**Faxes: +216 1 562 378 (via Bureau du Premier Ministre)**

**Telexes: 14470 mafta tn, 14471 mafta tn, 14472 mafta tn**

**Telegrams: Ministre des Affaires étrangères Ben Yahia, Tunis, Tunisie**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

Tunisian Human Rights League

Me Taoufik Bouderbala, Président

**Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme, LTDH**

21 Rue Imam el Bakri

1002 TUNIS Belvedere

Tunisia

**Faxes: +216 1 801 599**

and to diplomatic representatives of Tunisia accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 May 1996.