

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 30/09/98

13 March 1998

Further information on UA 48/98 (MDE 30/04/98, 13 February 1998)

- Fear for safety and new concern: Fear of imprisonment as prisoner of conscience

TUNISIA Radhia NASRAOUI, Human rights lawyer

Radhia Nasraoui has received charges against her, in her absence, identical to those brought against 15 detainees she is currently defending. Amnesty International believes all the detainees to be prisoners of conscience (see UA 59/98, MDE 30/05/98, 24 February 1998 and follow-ups MDE 30/06/98.

These charges include: belonging to a criminal and terrorist gang, holding unauthorized meetings, inciting rebellion, insulting the President, spreading false information aiming to disturb public order, defamation against the authorities and distributing leaflets.

The above charges have also been brought against three additional people, also in their absence, who are now being sought by police. Among them is Hamma Hammami, the husband of Radhia Nasraoui, a former prisoner of conscience adopted by Amnesty International on several occasions.

Radhia Nasraoui, currently out of the country, and her family have repeatedly been harassed and intimidated by security forces over a period of several years.

Her office was ransacked on the night of 11-12 February 1998 following a period of increasingly intense harassment and surveillance by security forces. On 14 January her husband, Hamma Hammami, was arrested by police in the street with their youngest daughter, aged nine years old. They were both taken to a police station where he was interrogated for few hours and subsequently released without charge.

Amnesty International would consider Radhia Nasraoui to be a prisoners of conscience were she imprisoned.

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

- expressing concern that Radhia Nasraoui is charged with the above-mentioned offences and that she risks being arrested and imprisoned as a prisoner of conscience;
- urging that the charges against her be dropped;

APPEALS TO:

1) President of the Republic
Président M. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali
Président de la République
Palais Présidentiel
Tunis/Carthage
Tunisie

Telegrams: Président, Tunis, Tunisia
Telexes: 14900 prpsa tn / 12163 ppsd tn
Faxes: + 216 1 744 721
Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Your Excellency

2) Minister of Justice
M. Abdallah Kallel

2

Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
31 Boulevard Bab Benat
1006 Tunis, Tunisia

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Tunis, Tunisia

Faxes: + 216 1 568 106

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Tunisian Human Rights League

Me Taoufik Bouderbala, Président

Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme, LTDH

7 Rue Pierre Curie

Tunis, Tunisia

Tel/faxes: + 216 1 336 338

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 24 April 1998.