

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 81/92 (MDE 30/14/92, 6 March 1992 and follow-up MDE 30/16/92, 26 March 1992) - Legal Concern/Fear of Torture

TUNISIA:Ezzedine Hadj Belgacem

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Amnesty International has learned that Ezzedine Hadj Belgacem was transferred from Gabes Police Station to the Civil Prison in Gabes, and is no longer being held incommunicado in *garde à vue* detention. His trial which was to be held on 8 April 1992 has been postponed to 22 April 1992.

Ezzedine Hadj Belgacem was arrested on 7 February 1992 and held in *garde à vue* detention in Gabes Police Station beyond the maximum 10-day period allowed by Tunisian law. Ezzedine Hadj Belgacem suffers from detached retina which could result in blindness should he not receive immediate medical attention.

Amnesty International is concerned that Ezzedine Hadj Belgacem was tortured while being held incommunicado in *garde à vue* detention.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters**

- urging that Ezzedine Hadj Belgacem receive all necessary medical care and stress that his eye condition will drastically deteriorate should he not receive the necessary treatment;
- expressing concern that he was held in illegal *garde à vue* detention for longer than the 10-day maximum allowed by Tunisian law.
- expressing concern that he was allegedly tortured while being held in *garde à vue* detention;
- calling upon the Tunisian Government to investigate these allegations of torture immediately, even if no formal complaint has been lodged, and bring to justice those found responsible;
- urging that if the allegations are proved the Tunisian Government should provide Ezzedine Hadj Belgacem with compensation;

**APPEALS TO:**

1. Minister of the Interior

M. Abdallah Kallel

**[Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency]**

Ministre de l'Interieur

Ministère de l'Interieur

Avenue Habib Bourguiba

Tunis, Tunisie

**Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Tunis, Tunisia**

**Telexes: 13662 sdap tn**

2. Minister of Justice

M. Abderrahim Zouari

**[Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency]**

Ministre de la Justice

Ministère de la Justice

Boulevard Bab Benat

Tunis, Tunisie

**Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Tunis, Tunisia**

**Faxes: + 216 1 568 106**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

First Presidential Counsellor for Human Rights

M. Sadoq Chaâbane

**[Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency]**

Conseiller Présidentiel chargé des Droits de l'Homme

Palais Présidentiel

Carthage/Tunis

Tunisie

**Faxes: + 216 1 744721 or 742513**

Human Rights Organization

Ligue Tunisienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme

23 rue du Yemen

Tunis, Tunisia

**Faxes: + 216 1 795 466**

and to diplomatic representatives of Tunisia in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 22 May 1992.