

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 30/23/94  
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Further information on UA 69/94 (MDE 30/06/94, 22 February 1994) and follow-ups (MDE 30/07/94, 1 March, MDE 30/09/94, 11 March, MDE 30/10/94, 18 March, MDE 30/12/94, 8 April, MDE 30/14/94, 11 May and MDE 30/19/94, 29 June) - Health Concern / Torture / Prisoner of Conscience / Cruel Degrading Treatment / Legal Concern and new concern: Health and Legal Concern

**TUNISIA: Hamma HAMMAMI, member of the unauthorized *Parti communiste des ouvriers tunisiens* (PCOT), Tunisian Workers' Communist Party**

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Hamma Hammami, a prisoner of conscience, has been denied access to his family and lawyers since 7 December 1994 when he embarked on a hunger-strike. Amnesty International is concerned for his health and that his present whereabouts are unknown.

After Hamma Hammami went on hunger-strike on 7 December, his family and lawyers were denied access to him and told that he was being "punished". Prisoners on hunger-strike are held permanently chained in solitary confinement with inadequate clothing and bedding. His family and lawyers were informed that he had been transferred to another prison but they have been unable to establish his present whereabouts after receiving conflicting reports from the prison authorities about his place of detention. They have also been unable to obtain any further information from other authorities including the Ministry of the Interior. In addition, Hamma Hammami suffers from heart and kidney conditions and Amnesty International fears that he may currently be denied the medical care that he needs for these.

Since being sentenced earlier this year to a total of 8 years and 7 months' imprisonment, Hamma Hammami has gone on three hunger-strikes to protest at his conditions of detention, at lack of access to medical care and at restrictions on family visits.

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

- expressing concern that Hamma Hammami is being denied access to his lawyers, stating that this is in breach of Tunisian law, which guarantees detainees' right to access to legal counsel at all times, and is inconsistent with international standards on the subject of access to legal counsel;
- urging the authorities to ensure that he have prompt and full access to medical care;
- emphasising again (as in earlier appeals this year) that Hamma Hammami has been imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his internationally recognized right to freedom of expression and association and insisting that he be immediately and unconditionally released.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of Justice  
M. Sadok Chaâbane  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
Boulevard Bab Benat  
Tunis, Tunisie

**Faxes: +216 1 568 106 or +216 1 567 070**

**Telexes: 13000 maet tn (via Ministère de l'Intérieur)**  
**Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice Chaâbane, Tunis, Tunisie**  
**Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency**

2) Minister of the Interior

M. Abdallah Kallel  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
Avenue Habib Bourguiba  
Tunis, Tunisie  
**Faxes: +216 1 340 888**  
**Telexes: 13662 sdap tn**  
**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Intérieur Kallel, Tunis, Tunisie**  
**Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

M. Salem Makki  
**Conseiller Présidentiel chargé des droits de l'homme**  
Palais Présidentiel  
Carthage/Tunis  
Tunisia  
**Faxes: +216 1 731 009 or +216 1 742 513**

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