

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 30/24/00

12 October 2000

Further information on UA 297/00 (MDE 30/22/00, 26 September 2000) and follow-up (MDE 30/23/00, 2 October 2000) - Health concern

TUNISIAFathi Karraoud

Abdelatif Bouhajila

Yacine Ben Zarti (called Youssef Ben Zarti in original UA)

Zuhair Yacoub

Abdallah Drissa

Noureddine Amdouni

Soufiane Hammami

At least 10 others

New names: Bashir Boujenah

Choukri Gargouri

There is increasing concern for the Tunisian prisoners named above, many of whom have been on hunger strike for more than a month and risk damaging their health permanently.

Abdelatif Bouhajila has now been on hunger strike for 46 days. On 10 October, his father tried to visit him in prison, but was told by prison staff that his son was in hospital. Nobody was able to confirm this information. On 11 October, one of Bouhajila's lawyers was refused access for the third time in two weeks. His other lawyer has also been refused access in the last month.

Fathi Karraoud has now been on hunger strike for 40 days.

Day after day, the number of prisoners on hunger-strike increases: Bashir Boujenah, reportedly began his hunger strike on 10 September. Like many of the other prisoners, he is protesting against the length of the proceedings against him. A supporter of *al-Nahda*, an unauthorized Islamist group, he was forcibly returned from Libya in 1997 and has been awaiting trial since. Choukri Gargouri has been on hunger strike since 5 September and is calling for his wife, a former political prisoner under tight administrative control, to be allowed to visit him.

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

- expressing concern about the health of the prisoners named above;
- calling for Abdelatif Bouhajila's lawyers and family to be informed of his whereabouts immediately;
- calling for all prisoners on hunger strike to be given prompt and regular access to their families and lawyers;
- calling for all prisoners on hunger strike to be given appropriate medical care.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior

M. Abdallah KALLEL

Ministre de l'Intérieur

Ministère de l'Intérieur

Avenue Habib Bourguiba

1001 Tunis, Tunisia

Telegram: Ministre Interieur, Tunis, Tunisia
Fax: + 216 1 340 888
E-mail: mint@ministeres.tn
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

Presidential Councillor for Human Rights

M. Dali JAZI

Conseiller Spécial auprès du Président de la République,
chargé des droits de l'homme

Palais Présidentiel

Tunis

Tunisia

Fax: + 216 1 571314

Salutation: Monsieur le Conseiller / Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

M. Afif Hendaoui

Ministre Délégué chargé des Droits de l'Homme

Bureau du Premier Ministre

Place du Gouvernement

La Kasbah

1006 Tunis

Tunisia

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 23 November 2000.