

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/27/95

10 November 1995

Further information (10) 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, MDE 30/19/94, 29 June, MDE 30/23/94, 12 December, MDE 30/25/94, 16 December and MDE 30/26/94, 22 December 1994) - Torture / Prisoner of Conscience / Health and Legal Concern / Cruel, Degrading Treatment

TUNISIA                      Hamma HAMMAMI

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Hamma Hammami was released by presidential pardon on 6 November 1995 on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali's coming to power. Hammami, a leading member of the illegal *Parti communiste des ouvriers tunisiens* (PCOT), Tunisian Workers' Communist Party, was arrested on 14 February 1994 and was serving a total prison sentence of eight years and seven months.

Amnesty International welcomes the release of Hamma Hammami, whom it considered to be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his internationally recognized right to freedom of expression. In early 1994 the Urgent Action Network had sent many thousands of appeals to the Tunisian authorities, urging that he receive medical care following the torture he was subjected to after his arrest. Later in the year, when Hamma Hammami embarked on hunger-strikes in protest at his conditions of detention, the UA Network renewed calls for his release and for him to be treated in accordance with international standards for the treatment of detainees.

Hamma Hammami has expressed his appreciation for Amnesty International's action on his behalf. No further action by the Urgent Action Network is requested.