

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/63/97

24 December 1997

Further information on UA 142/97 (MDE 30/28/97, 14 May 1997) and follow-ups (MDE 30/30/97, 27 May, MDE 30/36/97, 6 June, MDE 30/57/97, 11 December, and MDE 30/61/97, 18 December) - Prisoner of conscience / Fear of ill-treatment / Medical concern

**TUNISIA** Abdel Moumen BELANES, student

---

Amnesty International has received information that prisoner of conscience Abdel Moumen Belanes ended his hunger-strike on 22 December 1997. He had been on hunger-strike since 8 December in protest at his continued detention, the poor conditions of his detention in Nadhor Prison, and the denial of his right to communicate with his lawyers.

Abdel Moumen Belanes has been detained since 6 March 1997 and is serving a one-year prison sentence (imposed on 8 April and confirmed by the appeal court on 4 June) on charges of "disturbing public order". The charge was based on accusations by the authorities that, during a previous period of imprisonment as a prisoner of conscience in 1996, he had said that Tunisian newspapers were full of pictures of the President and Ministers.

Abdel Moumen Belanes has been denied visits from his lawyers since June. This is in violation of Article 70 of the Tunisian *Code de Procédure Pénale* (Code of Penal Procedures), which stipulates that detainees must have access to their lawyers at all times.

**UA participants may continue to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Abdel Moumen Belanes as a prisoner of conscience.**

**APPEALS TO:**

1) M. Abdallah Kallel  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
31 Boulevard Bab Benat  
1006 Tunis  
Tunisie

**Faxes: + 216 1 568 106**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency**

2) M. Ali Chaouch  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
Avenue Habib Bourguiba  
1001 Tunis  
Tunisie

**Faxes: + 216 1 346 624**

**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

2

Tunis, Tunisia

**Faxes:** + 216 1 336 338 (if voice, say: *je voudrais envoyer un fax, s'il vous plaît*)

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 6 February 1998.