

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 20 per section

15 October 1993

Further information on UA 331/93 (AFR 23/05/93, 17 September 1993) - Legal concern

DJIBOUTI: Mohamed Houmed Soulleh, president of the Association pour la défense des droits de l'homme et des libertés (ADDHL) and a former member of parliament

Mohamed Houmed Soulleh began a hunger-strike on 11 October 1993 in protest against his continued detention and his treatment in prison. He was arrested on 15 September and charged with defamation of the army and spreading false information. This related to his exposure of human rights abuses by the army in the civil war.

He was initially denied access to his lawyer, contrary to the new constitution. The following week, the investigating magistrate ordered his provisional release. However, he remained in custody as the state prosecutor appealed against this order. His defence lawyer is currently petitioning the Supreme Court to support the provisional release order. He now has access to his family and lawyer.

Mohamed Houmed Soulleh is held in Gabode prison in the capital, Djibouti, where he complains that he is held in a crowded cell with over 150 common-law prisoners and had been threatened by prison guards. The Minister of Justice, who is also responsible for prisons, has reportedly refused to allow him to be transferred to another cell.

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

- expressing concern at the continued detention of Mohamed Houmed Soulleh and renewing appeals for his immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned for his human rights activities;
- expressing anxiety about his hunger-strike and calling for an immediate independent inquiry into his complaints about his treatment in prison;
- urge that he be treated humanely and in accordance with the United Nations' Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

APPEALS TO:

1) Son Excellence Monsieur Hassan Gouled Aptidon
Président de la République
La Présidence
BP 6
Djibouti, République de Djibouti

Telegrams: Président Hassan Gouled, Djibouti
Telexes: 5871 DJ
Faxes: + 253 355049 / + 253 350174
Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République

2) Monsieur Moumin Bahdon Farah
Ministre de la Justice et des Affaires Pénitentiaires
Ministère de la Justice
BP 12

Djibouti, République de Djibouti
Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice Moumin Farah
Telexes: 5871 DJ
Faxes: + 253 355049 / + 253 350174
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Head of Prison Service
Monsieur Mohamed Houmed
Chef du Service Pénitentiaire et
directeur de la prison civil de Gabode
BP 12
Djibouti, République de Djibouti

2) President of the Supreme Court
Monsieur Houssein Agareh Djilal
Président de la Cour Suprême
BP 12
Djibouti, République de Djibouti

3) Attorney General
Monsieur Thiam
Procureur Général par interim
BP 12
Djibouti, République de Djibouti

4) Association pour la défense des droits de l'homme et des libertés
BP 2410
Djibouti, République de Djibouti

5) Maître Aref Mohamed Aref (Soulleh's lawyer)
BP 1441
Djibouti, République de Djibouti

and to diplomatic representatives of DJIBOUTI accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 November 1993.