

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1.Introduction 1
- 2.Prisoners of Conscience 2
- 3.Denial of Rights to Pre-Trial Detainees 3
- 4.Torture in Pre-trial Detention 6
- 5.Unfair Trials 8
- 6."Disappearances" 9
- 7.Death Penalty 12

MOROCCO

Continuing human rights violations

1. Introduction

A number of positive steps have been taken since February 1991 to improve the human rights situation in Morocco including the release of political prisoners and law reform. However, serious widespread violations of human rights have continued to occur in Morocco.

Positive steps have included the release of over 330 political prisoners (including over 260 people of Western Saharan origin who had "disappeared" for up to 16 years; over 20 military men who had been detained incommunicado for 18 years in life-threatening conditions and three brothers who had "disappeared" for over 18 years). In addition, on 30 December 1991 King Hassan II promulgated a law which made certain changes in the articles of the Moroccan *Code de procédure pénale* (CPP), Criminal Procedure Code, governing *garde à vue* detention (the period when a detainee is held by the police without access to lawyer or family) and *détention préventive* (remanding in custody).

However, Amnesty International remains concerned about over 600 political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, who remain in prison, the majority of them serving sentences imposed after trials which failed to satisfy international standards for fair trial. Political detainees, especially those of Western Saharan origin, both in the Western Sahara and within Morocco, are still held in *garde à vue* detention for prolonged periods. Reports of torture in pre-trial detention are still widespread and at least five people are reported to have died in circumstances which suggest that they were tortured or ill-treated in custody before their deaths. Hundreds of people of Western Saharan origin and Moroccans reported to have "disappeared" in the custody of Moroccan security forces are believed still to be detained in secret centres or camps in Morocco. People of Western Saharan who were released in June and military men released from the secret prison camp of Tazmamert are believed to be still restricted in their movements and no inquiry has been held to investigate their unlawful detention for up to 18 years nor to investigate the continuing pattern of other prolonged and unlawful detentions.

Over the past year, Amnesty International has written to the Moroccan Government welcoming the releases of political prisoners and "disappeared" while continuing to express concern about other human rights violations in Morocco. The organization has also repeatedly written to the Moroccan Government requesting access to the country in order to carry out on the spot research into the human rights situation, but has received no response. Amnesty International has not been permitted to carry out research in Morocco since March 1990. Amnesty International has also written on several occasions to the Secretary General of the Moroccan *Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme* (CCDH), Human Rights Advisory Council, proposing a meeting between Amnesty International and the CCDH either in Morocco or London to discuss Amnesty International's continuing human rights concerns in Morocco. However, although CCDH delegations at their own request paid a number of visits to Amnesty International's sections in Europe and the United States, no delegation has yet accepted Amnesty International's invitation to visit its International Secretariat.

2. Prisoners of Conscience

More than 50 prisoners of conscience and over 100 possible prisoners of conscience continue to be detained in Morocco. Many have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment on charges such as conspiracy against the state, often after being held in prolonged incommunicado detention and tortured into signing confessions.

Among them are eight students of a left-wing tendency within the *Union nationale des étudiants marocains* (UNEM), National Union of Moroccan Students, convicted in 1984 of conspiring to overthrow the government and 15 suspected members of *Ila'l-Amam* (Forward), an illegal Marxist organization arrested between 1984 and 1987 on charges which included conspiring against the government and membership of an illegal organization. Scores of other suspected members of leftist or Islamic organizations convicted since 1984 on charges of distributing leaflets of disturbing public order are prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience. Abdessalam Yassine, the leader of a banned Islamic organization *al-'Adl wa'l-Ihsan* (Justice and Charity), who has been detained in house arrest without charge or trial since January 1990, is also a prisoner of conscience.

Prisoners of conscience are still being sentenced under broadly-worded *dahirs* (laws) which permit the imprisonment of individuals for the non-violent expression of their beliefs. Among at least 120 people, including prisoners of conscience and possible prisoners of conscience, sentenced to between six months' and one year's imprisonment since December 1991 for political offences, are a number of trade unionists. Noubir Amaoui, a lecturer in Arabic and the Secretary General of the *Confederation Democratique du Travail* (CDT), Democratic Labour Confederation, as well as a politburo member of the main opposition party the *Union socialiste des forces populaires*, Socialist Union of People's Forces (USFP) was sentenced on 17 April 1992 at the court of first instance in Rabat to two years imprisonment for an interview which he gave to the Spanish daily *El Pais*, published on the 11 March 1992 under the heading "we confront oligarchy and power". In this interview Amaoui described the Moroccan leaders as "thieves, buffoons and out of touch with the situation". He also discussed the possibility of future general strikes, and called for a "radical revision" of the Moroccan constitution. He was convicted of defamation under articles of the Press Code commonly used to convict journalists.

The trial, conducted against a background of frequent strikes in Morocco, particularly in the education, health, phosphate, mining and urban transport sectors, was held under heavy police surveillance. An Algerian delegation of six lawyers who had come to observe the trial was expelled from Morocco and demonstrators and supporters of Noubir Amaoui denouncing the trial were treated roughly by police authorities. Immediately after the trial Noubir Amaoui was taken to Salé Prison, without being granted bail (*liberté provisoire*), normally granted to all those charged under the press laws. He is now held in Kenitra Prison.

After the trial, editors and journalists of newspapers which had given a wide coverage to the trial were also interrogated by the police and three were summoned to appear in court under Article 55 of the Press Code (which forbids publication of trial proceedings on charges of defamation). After preliminary sessions in May, trials in all cases were adjourned till July and then until December.

3. Denial of Rights to Pre-Trial Detainees

During 1991 the rights of pre-trial detainees continued to be violated in Morocco. At the end of the year, a number of reforms governing pre-trial procedure were promulgated. Reports suggest that the many of the reforms are still not being observed in practice.

Maximum time limits were much more generally respected than in the past, even though there were still reports of political detainees being held in *garde à vue* detention for longer than the legal maximum period and arrest dates on police statements were still sometimes falsified to hide prolonged incommunicado detention. Noureddine Jarir was arrested on 25 October 1991 and remained in *garde à vue* detention for longer than the legal maximum of six days (for cases not involving state security). Although his arrest was reported in Moroccan newspapers and radio, the date of arrest on his *procès verbal* (police statement) was falsified to 4 November in order to hide the illegal extension of his period in *garde à vue* detention. Detainees of Western Saharan origin were apparently particularly liable to be held for long periods, both those living within the Western Sahara area and those elsewhere. Over 100 people of Western Saharan origin are reported to have been arrested by the Moroccan authorities, apparently for political reasons, in the Western Sahara between 6 September 1991 and July 1992. Those arrested were from Smara, Laayoune and Dakhla in the Western Sahara but they also included people of Western Saharan origin who were arrested in Agadir, Tan Tan, and other places in south Morocco. Most were believed to have been held in prolonged *garde à vue* detention: some may still be detained. Amnesty International wrote to Morocco's Minister of the Interior on 3 February 1992 listing 57 people of Western Saharan origin who were reported to have been detained in December 1991 and early January 1992, requesting detailed information about the reasons for their arrest and their current legal status. No reply had been received by October 1992; however, most of those detained are believed to have been released.

Those arrested and detained include Bella Ma' El Ainain, a 26-year-old bank employee from Assa in the Western Sahara, who was working in Agadir at the Société Générale Marocaine des Banques, SGMB. He was arrested on 11 September 1991 after allowing a Swiss journalist to use the bank's fax machine earlier that day to send an article on the progress of the Western Saharan peace settlement to Switzerland. The fax of the article failed to arrive in Switzerland and Bella Ma' El Ainain was reportedly arrested at 11am at the bank. His family asked the police for information but were told that nothing was known about his arrest. Amnesty International wrote to the Minister of the Interior about his case but received no reply. However, Bella Ma' El Ainain was eventually released from detention without being charged or brought to trial in early January 1992.

On 30 December 1991 King Hassan II issued *Dahir* (law) 1.91.110 promulgating law 69.90 which the Moroccan national assembly had passed unanimously on 25 April 1991. This law amended certain articles of the CPP, Article 2 of *Dahir* 1.74.448 of 28 September 1974 and Article 17 of *Dahir* 1.72.157 of 6 October 1972. It made a number of changes in the rules governing pre-trial detention in Morocco:

1. Incommunicado *garde à vue* detention in cases of breaches of internal or external state security was limited to 96 hours renewable once with the written authorization of the *Procureur du Roi* (prosecutor) or the *Procureur général du Roi* (public prosecutor) that is, a maximum total of eight days compared to the previous legal maximum of 12 days. In other cases, not involving the internal or external secretary of the

Morocco: Continuing human rights violations

state, the maximum period of *garde à vue* detention remained at 6 days.

2. The suspect's family must be notified as soon as a person is taken into police custody and a list of those arrested within the previous 24 hours must be sent to both the *Procureur du Roi* and the *Procureur général du Roi*.

3. Detainees must be immediately informed of their rights, including the right to be represented by a lawyer during initial questioning (*interrogatoire primaire*). Upon request, or when he observes injuries or marks that warrant it, the *Procureur du Roi* or *Juge d'instruction* (investigating judge) is required to order a medical examination of the detainee, to be performed by an expert physician.

4. The period of *détention préventive* (remanding in custody) is set at two months, renewable five times allowing this form of detention to be prolonged to a maximum period of one year). If the accused has not yet been brought to court at the end of the period, she or he may be released while the examination of the case continues.

In summary therefore, the legal maximum period of *garde à vue* detention was reduced from 12 to eight days for offences involving state security and remained at six days for other offences. The maximum period of *détention préventive* was reduced from 18 months to 12 months. Amnesty International welcomed these changes, which had been recommended by the CCDH and which went some way towards implementing some of the recommendations made in recent Amnesty International reports about human rights violations in Morocco. Amnesty International remains concerned, however, that detainees may be held incommunicado in *garde à vue* detention for up to six days, despite the past evidence of torture of detainees in Morocco. Tens of testimonies gathered from Morocco over the past year show that torture is carried out systematically during the 48 hours immediately after arrest. In this connection, the legal maximum of six or eight days still does not appear, in Amnesty International's view, to satisfy relevant international standards, which require states to grant detainees prompt access to their lawyers and families.

The right of the defendants, under the amendment to CPP Article 76, to have their lawyer present during the *interrogatoire primaire* (the questioning of the accused before the *procureur du Roi*) does not, therefore, provide a safeguard against torture during interrogation by the *police judiciaire*. In addition, lawyers are usually not informed of the date of the *interrogatoire primaire* and the law makes no mention of any obligation to inform them. When the accused are in incommunicado detention there is no opportunity for them to contact a lawyer and the lawyer has no right to see the accused before this interrogation. At the same time families complain that the police still fail to notify them of an arrest and that they have to search police stations to locate an arrested relative.

Amnesty International regrets that the possibility of indefinite prolongation of *garde à vue* detention under Law 2-71 of 26 July 1971 for offenses against state security committed by military or offenses against external state security committed by civilians remains. However, the organization is not aware of any recent use of this law.

Amnesty International is also concerned that detainees appear unlikely to be granted access to a doctor until after the six-day maximum period. Such a period of time may still conceal the physical effects or other evidence of torture or ill-treatment to which the detainee has been subject. The new law fails to lay

Morocco: Continuing human rights violations

down clear guidelines requiring that allegations of torture be subject to thorough investigation, and it fails to state clearly that no confession or statement will be admissible in court if it is obtained under torture or duress. Amnesty International knows of no case when a *procureur du Roi* or *juge d'instruction* has ordered a medical examination after a complaint of torture.

4. Torture in Pre-trial Detention

Torture during the period of *garde à vue* detention is still widespread in Morocco. Methods used range from beatings, especially on the soles of the feet (*falaqa*), often while being suspended in contorted positions, to partial suffocation, often with rags soaked in bleach or strong detergents, and electric shocks. Hundreds of people arrested following anti-government riots on 14 and 15 December 1990 or after demonstrations in support of Iraq during the Gulf War alleged that they had been tortured or ill-treated after arrest.

Most of the students, arrested in various universities between September 1991 and March 1992 after demonstrations or clashes between leftist students, Islamist students and police at Fes University, alleged that they were tortured or ill-treated in *garde à vue* detention. In the past political detainees were frequently tortured in the centre of Derb Moulay Cherif in Casablanca. No recent testimonies have mentioned the use of this centre; however tens of testimonies have alleged torture in other local police stations in Morocco.

A student supporter of the banned Islamic organization *al-'Adl wa'l-Ihsan*, alleged that he was tortured after arrest in Oujda Police Station. He was arrested after violent clashes between Islamist and leftist students at Oujda University and the death of a leftist student, allegedly after being kidnapped and tortured by Islamists.

"After we had been arrested on 1 November 1991, we spent a week in *garde à vue* detention. During this week I was tortured. They stripped me naked and gave me electric shocks. They pulled my beard and tortured me by the 'aeroplane'. [See below, for a description of this torture] After that they took us to Oujda Prison, without allowing us to wear any shoes..."

He was sentenced by Oujda *Cour d'appel*, Court of Appeal, on 8 January 1992 to 20 years' imprisonment for participating in homicide, kidnapping and causing explosions.

Over a year after Amnesty International's 1991 report detainees are still being tortured by the same methods before being forced to sign, blindfold, confessions whose contents they do not know. Twenty Fes University students who participated in a demonstration and sit-in called by UNEM to demand recognition of the union, reinstatement of expelled students and provision of a student restaurant, were arrested on 4 December 1991. They alleged that, after being severely beaten on the spot during charges by the police and the CMI, they were taken to the El Batha detention centre in Fes and tortured. One student described being tortured by the method known as the "aeroplane" (*avion, tayyara*) wrote:

"During my stay in this detention centre they tortured me systematically in different ways so as to get information or a confession. They stretched me out on the ground on my stomach and tied my hands and feet, passing an iron bar between my forearms and my knees, with my head hanging down. They put something solid on my back, so that I couldn't bend and to make it more painful. Then they choked me

AI Index: MDE 29/06/92 Amnesty International October 1992

Morocco: Continuing human rights violations

with a cloth soaked in salty water to stop me from breathing and make me confess imaginary acts... The next day they forced me, handcuffed and blindfold, to sign a *procès verbal* under torture. I didn't know its contents. Then they took me to the *juge d'instruction*. It was only then that I was told of the charges against me..."

The students were tried on 16 December and sentenced to up to four years' imprisonment on charges which included attacking public order, armed demonstrations and belonging to an illegal organization (UNEM). During the court hearing the students stated that they had been tortured in *garde à vue* detention, but no investigation was held into their allegations. The sentences were reduced on appeal with the most severe becoming two years' imprisonment.

Torture appears to be now generally practised during the first 48 hours, so that the traces may have disappeared before the legal period of *garde à vue* detention has ended.

Since February 1991 there have been at least five deaths in custody of detainees in circumstances which suggest that torture or ill-treatment caused or hastened the detainee's death. Driss Touati, a 21-year-old who worked with his father as a cobbler, was arrested in Rachidiya at 4pm on 18 April 1991. He was taken to Rachidiya Police Station, where he was allegedly tortured, and died the same night. The police authorities said that Driss Touati committed suicide. The family and their lawyer have repeatedly asked for an independent autopsy and an inquiry into the circumstances of his death, but to date the government has not responded to their request. Others said to have died in custody as a result of torture include Ridouane Al-Kabiri, who died on 18 July 1991 in Sidi Kasim, allegedly after being beaten by a police inspector; Mustafa ben Chabaa, who died on 18 August 1991 in Asila Police Station; and Abdelkarim Hadari, who was arrested on 19 October 1991 and died a few days later whilst held in detention in Taourirt. An inquiry was ordered by the police into the death of Laskum Al-Hashmi, who died on 21 September 1991, reportedly as a result of being beaten in the street by police officers but its outcome is not known; in none of the other cases is any inquiry known to have been carried out.

5.Unfair Trials

Nearly all prisoners of conscience and political prisoners serving sentences in Morocco have been convicted after unfair trials. Many of these trials not only fell short of internationally recognized fair trial standards but also failed to satisfy the requirements of Morocco's own law. Fair trial standards have most often been violated through the use of police statements [*procès verbaux*] extracted from detainees by torture or other coercion as a basis for convictions by the courts; the refusal of the courts to investigate allegations that statements and other evidence extracted under torture or other forms of duress and the failure of the courts to permit defendants to call certain witnesses in their defence. The failure of courts to address breaches of pre-trial procedures and to allow defence rights similar to those given to the prosecution have also put their impartiality into question.

Many of the trials held in 1991 suffered from these shortcomings. Most of those arrested in connection with the riots of 14 December 1990 were tried in collective trials of up to 85 defendants. They were rarely, if ever, accused of specific criminal acts. Many of the accused alleged that they had been tortured or ill-treated in *garde à vue* detention and denied medical treatment for injuries sustained during police and army actions against rioters. In many cases defence lawyers complained about irregularities in pre-

Amnesty International October 1992AI Index: MDE 29/06/92

Morocco: Continuing human rights violations

trial procedures, but their complaints were almost always rejected by judges: some defence lawyers withdrew from trials in protest. In one trial in January 1991, lawyers representing 81 defendants before the Criminal Court (*Chambre criminelle*) in Fes formally complained about the court's refusal to allow medical examinations of, or treatment for, some of the defendants, as well as misuse of the *flagrant délit* procedure (used when a suspect is arrested while committing the offence or shortly thereafter), and the prosecution's failure to produce evidence that any of the accused had committed any offence. Nevertheless, 48 of the accused were sentenced to between six months' and 10 years' imprisonment, and 30 others to 15 days' imprisonment. Three were acquitted.

At a trial on 9 and 10 April before the Fes *Cour criminelle* of students of Fes University accused of offences including disturbing public order, the judge refused to order a medical examination and transferral to hospital of students who bore traces of torture. Defence lawyers withdrew in protest and the students were sentenced on 29 April to between two and 12 months' imprisonment; two were acquitted.

6. "Disappearances"

Over the last year, a number of detainees held in secret detention for up to 18 years have been released. Those released included eight members of the Oufkir family, who had been held without charge or trial since August 1972, and the three Bourequat brothers, all of French nationality, who had been held in appalling conditions from July 1973 until December 1991, and who spent their last ten years at the secret detention centre of Tazmamert. Twenty-eight surviving army officers were also released from the same centre after 18 years of incommunicado detention in life-threatening conditions during which half of those detained had died, many of them long after they had completed their sentences. In addition, over 260 people of Western Saharan origin were released in June 1991 from two secret centres after up to 16 years in unacknowledged secret detention.

In no case has there been any inquiry, public or otherwise, into how these people came to be held, incommunicado, often without charge or trial, in secret centres for so many years, and those responsible have not been identified or brought to justice. In addition, virtually all of those released appear to have been placed under restrictions on their movements and association. Information from those released and others indicates the existence of a number of secret detention centres under the jurisdiction of different branches of the security forces (such as the *Direction de la surveillance du territoire* (DST), Office of Territorial Surveillance and the *gendarmerie*).

Ali Bourequat, who was arrested on 8 July 1973, a few hours before his two brothers, has said that he was initially interrogated with his eyes blindfolded and his hands tied behind his back. He was beaten and tortured by the suspension method and threatened with death if he did not confess to being an agent of the French Security Services. In 1975 he and his two brothers escaped, along with other detainees, but they were quickly recaptured. The three brothers' sister and mother were both arrested at the time of their escape and then held incommunicado at the same centre for 15 months before being released uncharged. In 1981 the brothers were transferred to Tazmamert where:

"The cells were made of cement - they'd left it like that; you felt all the bumps. There was a cement bed two metres square at the end of the cell which was three metres by two. At the entrance was a hole for the toilet and 14 holes, about 10cm in diameter, in the wall looking on to the corridor. There was no light,

AI Index: MDE 29/06/92 Amnesty International October 1992

Morocco: Continuing human rights violations

no water, nothing. They gave a pitcher of water, about 3,4,5, litres, in the morning and for food a pot of tea, sort of cat's piss, 300-350 gm of bread, at midday half a pan of lentils, chickpeas or beans boiled in water and in the evening a pan of vermicelli".

Ali Bourequat left this darkness only once during ten years, when he was allowed to write a letter of appeal to the King. For the whole time the three brothers received no medicine and no letters; in the wing of the prison where the brothers were detained 26 out of the 33 detainees held there died between 1976 and 1991.

In September 1991 28 military men (those who remained alive from a group of 58 members of the armed forces secretly transferred from Kenitra Central Prison to Tazmamert on 7 August 1973), as well as the Bourequat brothers (who had been brought to Tazmamert in 1981), were transferred from the prison to an unknown centre, thought to be near Meknes. There they were given medical treatment and care and released between September and December 1991. No attempt has been made by the Moroccan Government to investigate how the Bourequat brothers came to be detained for over 18 years without charge or trial, nor how the military men came to be detained incommunicado in life-threatening conditions long after the expiry of most of their sentences.

The family of General Mohammed Oufkir, who died in unclear circumstances after being implicated in an attempted *coup d'état* against King Hassan II, were detained in August 1972 shortly after his death. The youngest child was then three years old. He, his mother, five other children and a cousin, were held until February 1991. The members of the Oufkir family have described how they were held for several years in extremely harsh conditions in separate cells at an isolated farm, until four of the children escaped in 1987 and were able to draw public attention to their plight. They were recaptured and held, still incommunicado, in somewhat better conditions, until they were eventually released in February 1991. They now appear able to move freely within Morocco but are said to be under surveillance and to have been denied passports to enable them to leave the country. No inquiry has been made into their illegal detention for nearly 19 years.

In June 1991 over 260 Sahrawi "disappeared" were suddenly released from unacknowledged detention. Subsequently, the Moroccan Government issued a *List of the persons originating from the Sahara reprieved by His Majesty King Hassan II following the request of the members of the advisory council for the Saharan affairs*. A number of the names on this list are those of individuals whose cases Amnesty International had submitted to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and had also been raised with the Moroccan Government for over 10 years without receiving any information in response. First hand information received by Amnesty International suggests that most of those released continue to be restricted in their movements and their ability to communicate with the outside world. Neither Amnesty International nor any other independent non-governmental organization has yet been permitted access to those released after being secretly detained for up to 16 years. Not only are the former "disappeared" apparently being denied relief, rehabilitation and compensation, as well as contact with the outside world, but they are reported to be under strict surveillance by the Moroccan authorities and are not allowed to move freely within the country. Scores of them are, in fact reported to have been required to reside not in the Western Sahara area but in Morocco.

Amnesty International believes that other Moroccans and people of Western Saharan origin who are reported to have "disappeared" are still being held in secret detention centres in Morocco. Their numbers

Morocco: Continuing human rights violations

are difficult to assess but Amnesty International has received reports suggesting that about 100 Moroccans said to have "disappeared" between 1963 and 1985 are still unaccounted for together with several hundred people of Western Saharan origin. Some of those recently released have said that they saw in detention others who remain "disappeared".

One of the Moroccans still "disappeared" is Abdelhaq Rouissi, a former employee of the Banque du Maroc in Casablanca and an activist in the *Union Marocaine du Travail*, is also believed to have "disappeared" into the custody of the security forces on 4 October 1964; there are no known witnesses to his arrest, but traces of blood were found in his room suggesting that he had been detained by force. Information from former "disappeared" prisoners who were recently released indicates that he was in detention at a secret gendarmerie centre in Rabat in 1975 and was being held at Ahermoumou military camp, still secretly, in 1983. Other reports indicate that he was seen alive at the same place in 1989.

Among several hundred Sahrawis still "disappeared" is Baidari ould Sidi Mohamed ould Barbouchi. Born in 1943 at Oued Seguia, he was a student at the time of his arrest on 29 February 1976 in Tan Tan. Another is Mgaili ment Yahdih ould Embarek who was born in 1951 in Laayoune and arrested there on 3 March 1985, shortly before a visit to the city by King Hassan II. The "disappeared" people of Western Saharan origin who have recently been released include many of those whose cases were discussed in Amnesty International's report, *Morocco: Disappearances of People of Western Saharan Origin* (AI Index: MDE 29/17/90), published in November 1990. Those freed were released only from the two centres cited by name in the report, at Qal'at M'gouna and Laayoune (where a number of "disappeared" had been kept in a secret centre within the town). However, hundreds of other "disappeared" of Western Saharan and Moroccan origin are still believed to be held in over 20 other secret villas or unacknowledged centres.

7. Death Penalty

Some 150 prisoners under sentence of death are currently reported to be held in Kenitra Central Prison. One political prisoner, Ahmed Khiari, sentenced to death in 1972 for killing a police informer, had his sentence commuted in January 1992 to 30 years' imprisonment. Fourteen other political prisoners remain in death row, including four possible prisoners of conscience sentenced to death in July 1984 on charges of attempting to change the political system.

Another of those on death row, Mohammed Daddach was a former member of the Polisario Front. Conscripted to the Moroccan *gendarmerie* after capture, he joined in an attempt to desert which caused the death of a *gendarme* and was sentenced to death for desertion to the enemy in 1979.