

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Ill-treatment and Hunger-Strike

5 December 1991

MOROCCO

Mohamed El Boukikli  
Abdallah Hosni  
Ait Belaid Brahim  
Hassan Sayeb  
Abdel Moumen Chbari  
Abdessalam Chefchaouni  
Ahmed Ben Massoud  
and 19 others

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Amnesty International is concerned that Mohamed El Boukikli, Abdallah Hosni, Ait Belaid Brahim, Hassan Sayeb, Abdel Moumen Chbari, Abdessalam Chefchaouni, Ahmed Ben Massoud and 19 other prisoners are reported to have been ill-treated and tortured during their transfer from Ghbila Prison, and have since begun a hunger-strike in protest at their treatment. On 23 November 1991 the 26 prisoners were moved to another prison where all their personal belongings were confiscated, including medicines, clothes, blankets, books, radios, televisions and some appliances which they used to heat their food. Two days later they were reportedly undressed, handcuffed and severely beaten and tortured by the guards. They started an indefinite hunger-strike on 25 November 1991 in protest at the torture and ill-treatment they were subjected to, and demanding that those responsible be brought to justice. They are now reported to be held in cachots (small dark isolation cells) as a punishment for demanding that their rights be respected.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mohamed El Boukikli, Abdallah Hosni, Ait Belaid Brahim, Hassan Sayeb, Abdel Moumen Chbari, Abdessalam Chefchaouni and Ahmed Ben Massoud are part of a group of 26 individuals who were arrested in 1985. They were tried in February 1986 and were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging between three and 20 years for offences including membership of an illegal organization. The prisoners of this "group of 26" have in the past undertaken several hunger-strikes complaining about issues such as ill-treatment, insufficient medical treatment and restrictions on their right to receive visits.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters if possible in French or Arabic:

- expressing serious concern at reports that Mohamed El Boukikli, Abdallah Hosni, Ait Belaid Brahim, Hassan Sayeb, Abdel Moumen Chbari, Abdessalam Chefchaouni Ahmed Ben Massoud and 19 other prisoners were ill-treated and have begun a hunger-strike as a result of this ill-treatment;
- expressing concern that they have reportedly been deprived of their medicines, seeking information on their present conditions and seeking assurance that they are getting the necessary medical treatment;
- urging that an investigation be carried out into the incident of ill-treatment which led the 26 detainees to begin their hunger-strike and asks for the responsible prison officials to be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Sa Majesté  
King Hassan II  
Bureau de Sa Majesté le Roi  
Palais Royal  
Rabat, Maroc

**Telegrams: King Hassan II, Rabat, Maroc.**

**Telex: 31744 or 32908**

**[Salutation: Sire]**

2) M. Moulay Moustapha  
Ministre de la Justice  
Belarbi Alaoui  
Ministère de la Justice  
Palais de la Manounia  
Rabat, Maroc

**Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Rabat, Maroc**

**Telex: 36888**

**[Salutation: Excellence]**

3) M. Driss Basri  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
et de l'Information  
Quartier Administratif  
Rabat, Maroc

**Telegrams: Ministre Interieure, Rabat, Maroc**

**Telex: 36161, 36731, 36969 ProCivile Rabat, Maroc**

**[Salutation: Excellence]**

4) M. Abdellatif Filali  
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères  
Ministère des Affaires  
Etrangères et de la Coopération  
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt  
Rabat, Maroc

**Telegrams: Ministre Affairs Etrangeres, Rabat, Maroc**

**Telex 36014, 36707, 36117, 36064**

**[Salutation: Excellence]**

5) M. Tayeb Bencheikh  
Ministre de la Santé  
Ministère de la Santé  
335 Avenue Mohammad V  
Rabat, Maroc

**Telegrams: Ministre Santé, Rabat, Maroc**

**Telex: 32816 DATSANTE M or 32998 DATSANTE M**

**[Salutation: Excellence]**

6) Dr Azeddine Laraki  
Premier Ministre

Bureau du Premier Ministre  
Palais Royal  
Rabat, Maroc  
**Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Rabat, Maroc**  
**Telex: 36008 GouvMaroc Rabat, Maroc**

**[Salutation: Excellence]**

COPIES TO:

Comité de Coordination  
Association marocaine des droits de l'homme  
5 Zankat Soussa  
Rabat, Maroc

Organization marocaine des droit de l'homme  
24 Avenue de France  
Agdal  
Rabat, Maroc

and to diplomatic representatives of Morocco in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 January.