



PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 30/02/9

Radhia Nasraoui with her daughter in December 1998

8 February 199

Further information on UA 48/98 (MDE 30/04/98, 13 February 1998) and follow-ups (MDE 30/09/98, 13 March 1998; MDE 30/16/98, 12 June 1998) - Fear for safety

**TUNISIA** Radhia Nasraoui, human rights lawyer

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Amnesty International is concerned that Radhia Nasraoui, who has been summoned to appear before a *Juge cantonal* (local court) in the capital, Tunis, on 10 February 1999, may be arrested and imprisoned.

Radhia Nasraoui was summoned to court after she went out of Tunis, which she is prohibited to do by the authorities, in mid-January to attend the funeral of her mother-in-law. This led to her interrogation about the trip on 3 February by the *Substitut du Procureur de la République* (Deputy State Prosecutor).

Since then, the level of harassment and intimidation against Radhia Nasraoui by the security forces, including surveillance of her home and office, has dramatically increased, raising new fears for her safety.

Amnesty International is concerned at the severe mental and emotional stress suffered by Radhia Nasraoui as a result of the restrictions placed on her movements and the prolonged harassment.

On 11 March 1998 Radhia Nasraoui was charged *in absentia* (at the time she was observing a trial in Mali on behalf of Amnesty International) on identical charges to those brought against 15 students (all considered by Amnesty International to be prisoners of conscience) she is currently defending (see UA 59/98, MDE 30/05/98, 24 February 1998 and follow ups). The charges include belonging to a terrorist group, holding unauthorized meetings, inciting rebellion, spreading false information aiming to disturb public order, defamation against the authorities and distribution of leaflets.

On her return from Mali at the end of March, she was summoned before the examining magistrate and ordered to stay within the confines of the capital Tunis, severely restricting her right to practice as a lawyer.

For the next 3 months Radhia Nasraoui was reportedly followed constantly by plain clothes security police one of whom reportedly tried to run her over in his car. She had been less conscious of being followed in the last few months.

Radhia Nasraoui and her family have been harassed and intimidated by the security forces over a period of several years in connection with her human rights work. In February her office was ransacked following a period of increasingly intense harassment and surveillance and in June security police staged a feigned kidnap attempt on her daughter.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Arabic, French, English or in your own language:

- urging the security forces to put an immediate halt to their harassment and surveillance of Radhia Nasraoui on account of her human rights work and professional duties;
- asking for all charges against Radhia Nasraoui to be dropped and restrictions to be lifted.

**APPEALS TO:**

**If a fax number is answered in person please say: "je voudrais envoyer un fax, s'il vous plaît"**

Minister of Justice

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

**Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Tunis, Tunisie**

**Faxes: + 216 1 568 106**

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

Minister of the Interior

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

**Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Tunis, Tunisie**

**Faxes: + 216 1 340 888**

**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  
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Tunisie

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and to diplomatic representatives of Tunisia accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**