

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 127/94 (MDE 30/11/94, 30 March 1994) - Prisoners of conscience / Legal concern

TUNISIA Moncef MARZOUKI, human rights activist
 Abderrahman HANI, human rights lawyer
 Ahmed KAHLAOUI, professor and trade unionist

Abderrahmane Hani was released on bail on 23 April 1994. Following on from his announcement that he would stand as a candidate for the Presidential Elections held in March 1994, he was arrested on 15 February on charges of setting up an illegal association and spreading false information. Although welcoming his release, Amnesty International is concerned that he still awaits trial for having peacefully exercised his right to freedom of expression.

Moncef Marzouki continues to be detained on charges of spreading false information liable to disturb public order and insulting the judiciary authorities. The accusations are based on a declaration to a foreign media he denies making. Arrested on 24 March 1994, he also had announced early in the year his candidature for the Presidential Elections. He is a prisoner of conscience and should be immediately and unconditionally released.

The trial of Ahmed Kahlaoui, arrested on 4 March 1994 began on 2 May 1994. He was initially charged with distributing unauthorized leaflets condemning the embargo against Iraq and the Hebron massacre, but further charges were later added, including that of inciting racial hatred. New evidence that has come to light after his defence lawyers were recently allowed to see the leaflets in question, indicates that one of the leaflets contains a phrase advocating violence. It is not clear if Ahmed Kahlaoui is the author or co-author of this leaflet, or whether he intended to distribute the leaflet knowing its content. In view of this new information, and pending further clarifications, his status as a prisoner of conscience cannot be determined. However, Amnesty International continues to be concerned that he may not be receiving a fair trial and will continue to monitor his case.

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

- urging the Tunisian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Moncef MARZOUKI, who is being detained as a prisoner of conscience for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- urging that Ahmed KAHLAOUI be given a prompt and fair trial in accordance with internationally accepted standards;
- welcoming Abderrahmane HANI's release on bail, but expressing regret that he was imprisoned as a prisoner of conscience and urging that the charges brought against him for having peacefully exercised his right to freedom of expression be dropped.

APPEALS TO:

Salutation for all: Votre Excellence / Your Excellency

- 1) President
M. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali

Président de la République
 Palais Présidentiel
 Tunis/Carthage, Tunisie
Faxes: +216 1 744 721
Telexes: 14900 prpsa tn 12163 ppsd tn
Telegrams: Président Ben Ali, Tunis, Tunisie

2) Minister of Justice

M. Sadok Chaâbane
 Ministre de la Justice
 Ministère de la Justice
 Boulevard Bab Benat
 Tunis, Tunisie
Faxes: +216 1 568 106 or +216 1 567 070
Telexes: 13000 maet tn (via Ministère de l'Intérieur)
Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice Chaâbane, Tunis, Tunisie

4) Minister of Foreign Affairs

M. Habib Ben Yahia
 Ministre des Affaires étrangères
 Ministère des Affaires étrangères
 Place du Gouvernement
 La Kasbah
 Tunis, Tunisie
Faxes: +216 1 791005
Telexes: 14470 mafta tn, 14471 mafta tn, 14472 mafta tn
Telegrams: Ministre des Affaires étrangères Ben Yahia, Tunis, Tunisie

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Ligue Tunisienne pour les Droits de l'Homme
 c/o Institut Arabe des Droits de l'Homme
 23, Avenue Mohieddine Klibi
 El Manar III
 1004 TUNIS, Tunisie
 Fax: 216 1 750 911

M. Iadh Ouederni
Conseiller présidentiel pour les Droits de l'Homme
 Attaché à la Présidence de la République
 Palais Présidentiel
 Tunis/Carthage, Tunisie
faxes: +216 1 731 009 or +216 1 742 513

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 16 June 1994.