

UA 129/91

Fear of Torture

19 April 1991

TUNISIA:

Ajmi Lourimi

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that Ajmi Lourimi, held incommunicado in *garde à vue* detention, is being tortured. Ajmi Lourimi, a secondary school teacher and member of the executive committee of *Hizb al-Nahda*, Party of the Renaissance, an unregistered Islamic Party, was arrested on 5 April 1991. He has since been held, incommunicado, at the Ministry of Interior in Tunis.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A former detainee held in detention in the cells of the Ministry of the Interior, allegedly for being a sympathizer with *al-Nahda*, who has recently been released, reported seeing Ajmi Lourimi in a very bad condition, with clear difficulty in walking and blood on his legs.

Detainees who have been held in detention in the Ministry of the Interior in Tunis have consistently reported that various methods of torture have been used against them. These include beatings, electricity and the *poulet rôti*, chicken on a spit, when the detainee is suspended in contorted positions and often beaten.

Hundreds of supporters or sympathizers of *al-Nahda* have been arrested in Tunisia over the past months and many of them have reported being tortured during their period of *garde à vue* detention.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in French or Arabic if possible:

- expressing concern at reports that Ajmi Lourimi is being tortured while being held in *garde à vue* detention at the Ministry of the Interior in Tunis;
- urging that he receives all the necessary medical care he requires and that his family and lawyer are allowed immediate access to him;
- urging that, as the 10-day maximum period for incommunicado detention has now expired, Ajmi Lourimi be released unless he is officially charged with a recognizable criminal offence and that details of any pending trial are made public.

APPEALS TO:

Son Excellence
 Président Zine El Abidine Ben Ali
 Président de la République
 Palais Présidentiel
 Carthage
 Tunis, Tunisia

Telexes: 14900 prpsa tn; 12183 ppsd tn
Faxes: + 216 1 74 4721
Telegrams: President Ben Ali, Tunis, Tunisia

M. Abdallah Kallel
 Ministre de l'Intérieur
 Ministère de l'Intérieur
 Place du Gouvernement
 Tunis, Tunisia

Telexes: 13682 sdap tn
Telegrams: Ministre Intérieur, Tunis, Tunisia

M. Abderrahim Zouari
 Ministre de la Justice
 Ministère de la Justice
 Boulevard Bab Benat
 Tunis, Tunisia

Telexes: 13000 MAET TN (via Ministre de l'Extérieur)
Faxes: + 216 1 68 8106
Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Tunis, Tunisia

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Tunisia in your country.

PLEASE ALSO SEND COPIES OF SOME OF YOUR APPEALS, FOR INFORMATION, TO:

Ligue Tunisienne pour la défense des droits de l'homme
 1, rue Canada
 Tunis
 Tunisia

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section Office if sending appeals after 31 May 1991.