

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 129/91 (MDE 30/16/91, 19 April 1991) - Fear of Torture

TUNISIA:Ajmi Lourimi

Amnesty International remains concerned at reports that Ajmi Lourimi, the Tunisian school teacher and member of the executive committee of Hizb al-Nahda arrested on 5 April 1991, continues to be denied access to his family and is said to be in serious mental and physical condition as a result of torture.

Ajmi Lourimi was held incommunicado in garde à vue detention in the Ministry of the Interior for over six weeks, that is to say over one month beyond the maximum 10-day period allowed by Tunisian law. At present he continues to be denied access to his family but has been allowed access to his lawyers.

According to reports by former detainees held in the Ministry of the Interior, Ajmi Lourimi was tortured while in detention and had to be taken to hospital for emergency medical treatment on at least one occasion. He is reported to be in very poor physical condition and to have become mentally disturbed

There have been increasingly frequent reports of torture and ill-treatment of supporters of the non recognized Islamic movement Hizb al-Nahda detained in the past few months.

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

- expressing concern at reports that Ajmi Lourimi was 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 be allowed immediate access to him;
- urging the Tunisian authorities to set up a thorough and impartial investigation into reports that Ajmi Lourimi was subject to torture during garde à vue detention, and to ensure that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- urging that unless Ajmi Lourimi is officially charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought promptly to trial he should be released.

APPEALS TO:

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

Telegrams: Président Ben Ali, Tunis, Tunisia

Telexes: 14900 prpsa tn

12163 ppsd tn

Faxes: +216 1 74 47 21

M. Abdallah Kallel
Ministre de l'Interieur
Ministère de l'Interieur
Place du Gouvernement
Tunis, Tunisie

Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Tunis, Tunisia

Telexes: 13662 sdap tn

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

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Tunis, Tunisia

Telexes: 13000 MAET TN (via Ministre de l'Exterieur)

Faxes: +216 1 56 8106

M. Habib Ben Yahia
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
Place du Gouvernement
La Kasbah
Tunis, Tunisie

Telegrams: Ministre Affaires Etrangeres, Tunis, Tunisia

Telexes: 14470 mafta tn

14471 mafta tn

14472 mafta tn

COPIES TO: Tunisian diplomatic representatives to your country

PLEASE SEND ALSO 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 23 July 1991.