

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 30/20/92

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Further information on UA 133/92 (MDE 30/19/92, 28 April 1992) - Prolonged incommunicado detention/Fear of torture

TUNISIA: Zouhair Mhiri - Literature teacher, aged 24

Zouhair Mhiri, the 24-year-old literature teacher from Ain al-Drahim who was arrested on 15 April 1992, has now been allowed visits by his family. He was held incommunicado in prolonged *garde à vue* detention in the Ministry of the Interior and in the police station in Sousse for over a month. He was reportedly tortured during this period. He has now been transferred to the prison in Sousse.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- expressing concern at reports that Zouhair Mhiri was tortured while held incommunicado;

- expressing concern that Zouhair Mhiri was held in prolonged *garde à vue* detention beyond the maximum 10-day-period allowed by Tunisian law;

- urging the Tunisian authorities to investigate reports that Zouhair Mhiri was tortured in *garde à vue* detention;

- urging the Tunisian authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure that no one is detained in prolonged *garde à vue* detention, as this is the time when detainees are more at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

APPEALS TO:

1. Minister of the Interior:

M. Abdallah Kallel

Ministre de l'Interieur

Ministère de l'Interieur

Avenue Habib Bourguiba

Tunis, Tunisie

Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Tunis, Tunisia

Telexes: 13662 sdap tn

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

2. Minister of Justice:

M. Abderrahim Zouari
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Boulevard Bab Benat
Tunis, Tunisie
Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Tunis, Tunisia
Faxes: + 216 1 568 106

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

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PLEASE SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1. First Presidential Counsellor for Human Rights:
M. Sadok Chaabane
Conseiller Présidentiel chargé des Droits de l'Homme
Palais Présidentiel
Carthage/Tunis
Tunisie
Faxes: + 216 1 744721 or 742513

Salutation: Excellence / Your Excellency

2. Human Rights Organization:
Ligue Tunisienne de la Défense des Droits de l'Homme
23 rue du Yemen
Tunis, Tunisia
Faxes: + 216 1 795 466

and to diplomatic representatives of Tunisia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 8 July 1992.