

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 270/96 (MDE 30/39/96, 21 November 1996) - Fear of torture/ill-treatment/prisoner of conscience

TUNISIARadhia AOUIDIDI

Amnesty International welcomes the recent release of prisoner of conscience Radhia Aouididi. She had been imprisoned since November 1996, and was serving a three years prison sentence. She had been arrested as she was trying to leave the country to join her fiancé, a refugee.

Two other women prisoners of conscience were released at the same time: Souad Charbati, who had been imprisoned since August 1995 and was serving a seven-year sentence, and Rachida Ben Salem, imprisoned since May 1997 (see UA 270/96, MDE 30/39/96, 21 November 1996, and follow-ups). They had been arrested as they were trying to leave Tunisia to join their husbands, who are refugees abroad. All had previously been detained, harassed and intimidated.

It is not clear at this stage if these women will finally be allowed to leave Tunisia to join their partners abroad.

No further action is required by the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.