

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 30/51/97

2 October 1997

Further information on EXTRA 128/97 (MDE 30/50/97, 30 September 1997) - Prisoner of Conscience / Health Concern

TUNISIA Khémais Ksila, aged 41, human rights defender

Khémais Ksila, Vice-President of the *Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme*, Tunisian Human Rights League, arrested on 29 September 1997, was brought before an examining magistrate on 1 October and charged with undermining public order, spreading false information aiming to disturb public order, and inciting people to break the law. He remains detained in 9 Avril Prison in Tunis.

Amnesty International is gravely concerned that Khémais Ksila has been charged and continues to be detained for having peacefully exercised his right to freedom of expression.

On 29 September Khémais Ksila had issued a public statement, announcing that he was starting a hunger-strike in protest at restrictions imposed on him by the Tunisian authorities and at the human rights situation in the country. He has now stopped his hunger-strike, because of the condition of his health.

Those taking part in this action who have not yet sent an appeal, please continue sending telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French, Arabic, English or your own language. Further appeals should:

- express grave concern that Khémais Ksila has now been charged and continues to be detained solely for having peacefully exercised his right to freedom of expression;
- call for his immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience;
- seek assurances that while in detention he be treated humanely in accordance with international standards for the treatment of detainees, and urging that he be allowed immediate access to his family, his lawyers and to any necessary medical care.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Justice

M. Abdallah Kallel
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Boulevard Bab Benat
Tunis, Tunisia

Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice, Tunis, Tunisie

Faxes: +216 1 568 106

Telexes: 13000 maet tn (via Ministère de l'Intérieur)

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

2) Minister of the Interior

M. Mohamed Ben Rejeb
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur
Av. Habib Bourguiba
Tunis, Tunisia

Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur, Tunis, Tunisie

Faxes: +216 1 340888

Telexes: 13662 sdap tn

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Tunisian Human Rights League
Me Taoufik Bouderbala, Président
Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme, LTDH
7 Rue Pierre Curie
TUNIS, Tunisia
Faxes: + 216 1 336 338

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 2 November 1997.