

PUBLIC

**AI Index: EUR 72/002/2008
18 March 2008**

Further information on UA 320/07 (EUR 72/012/2007, 30 November 2007) and follow-up (EUR 72/001/2008, 22 January 2008) - Torture/ill-treatment

SLOVAKIA Mustapha Labsi (m), aged 37, Algerian national

On 13 March the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic ruled that Mustapha Labsi cannot be extradited to Algeria until the Court has made its final decision on his appeal. Mustapha Labsi appealed to the Constitutional Court on 26 February, after the Supreme Court of Slovakia decided on 22 January 2008 that extradition of Mustapha Labsi to Algeria was admissible. It is not known when the Constitutional Court will make its final decision.

In his appeal to the Constitutional Court, Mustapha Labsi said that he would be at a real risk of torture if extradited to Algeria. His concerns were supported by numerous reports on the human rights situation in Algeria, from sources such as the UN Human Rights Committee, Amnesty International, a US government report and UK Home Office report on Algeria.

Mustapha Labsi's lawyer, Mária Kolíková, said: "This decision by the Constitutional Court is crucial for the protection of Mustapha Labsi's rights at the moment. By taking this decision the Slovak Constitutional Court demonstrated that it constitutes an effective mechanism of human rights protection. The whole case is, in essence, about the prohibition of torture, which is absolute; it applies to everyone and under all circumstances."

No further action from the UA network is required at present. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.