

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

21 January 1991

TUNISIA:

Hussain Jandoubi

Amnesty International is concerned that Hussain Jandoubi, a 36-year-old high school teacher from Kef, has been held in garde à vue (incommunicado) detention for 24 days and may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Hussain Jandoubi was arrested on 29 December 1990, apparently on suspicion of sympathizing with the unregistered Islamic opposition party al-Nahda. His house was reportedly searched by the security police and several papers were confiscated. He has now been held in garde à vue detention without access to lawyers or family for 24 days, that is 14 days beyond the 10-day period allowed by Tunisian law.

His family have sought information of his whereabouts with the Tunisian authorities without success.

Amnesty International is concerned that he may be the victim of torture or ill-treatment. Hundreds of supporters of al-Nahda have been arrested in Tunisia over the past four months and many of them have reported being tortured during their period in garde à vue detention.

In a document published in September 1990, entitled Tunisia: a summary of Amnesty International's concerns, AI Index: MDE 30/003/1990, Amnesty International expressed its concern at the numerous allegations of torture which remained unanswered by the Tunisian Government.

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

- expressing concern that Hussain Jandoubi has been held for 24 days in garde à vue detention which is 14 days beyond the legal 10-day limit, and that he might be at risk of torture;

- expressing concern about reports of torture and ill-treatment during garde à vue (incommunicado) detention and urging that these are fully and impartially investigated;

- Urging the government to comply with Tunisian law, which allows for those arrested to be kept in incommunicado detention for a maximum of 10 days, and to ensure that all those arrested are promptly brought to trial or released immediately.

PLEASE SEND YOUR APPEALS TO:

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

Telegrams: President Ben Ali, Tunis, Tunisia
Telexes: 14900 PRPSA TN; 12163 PPSD TN

M. Abdelhamid Escheikh
Ministre de l'Interieur
Ministère de l'Interieur
Place du Gouvernement
Tunis, Tunisie

Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Tunis, Tunisia
Telexes: 13662 sdap TN

M. Chedli Neffati
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Boulevard Bab Benat
Tunis, Tunisia

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Tunis, Tunisia

COPIES TO: Tunisian diplomatic representatives in 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 International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 4 March 1991.