



## THE RED AND BLACK COORDINATION

Confederation General del Trabajo (**CGT-E**) - Spain  
Confédération Nationale du Travail (**CNT-F**) - France  
Libertarian Syndicalist Union (**ESE**) - Greece  
Inicjatywa Pracownicza (**IP**) - Poland  
Union Sindicale Italiana (**USI**) -Italia  
Solidaridad Obrera (**SO**) - Spain  
Svensk Arbetaren Centralorganisation (**SAC**) - Sweden

[www.redblack.org](http://www.redblack.org) / [redblack@redblack.org](mailto:redblack@redblack.org)

### Press Communiqué and Emergency Appeal for International Solidarity

## THE MOROCCAN PRESS HAS BEEN GAGGED!

**WE APPEAL FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY  
AND DEMAND THAT THE CHARGES BE DROPPED AGAINST  
THE 7 MOROCCAN JOURNALISTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS  
WHO APPEAR IN COURT ON MAY 24, 2017, IN RABAT**

**The Unions of the Red and Black Coordination (CGT-E, CNT-F, ESE, IP, USI, SO, SAC) wish to express their full support for the seven Moroccan activists, five of whom are journalists, accused of "undermining state security" and who stand trial on May 24, 2017, with a likelihood of stiff sentences.**

**We draw the attention of journalists, trade unions, political associations, and the general public to the current repression in Morocco of human rights and independent journalists.**

The crackdowns in recent years Morocco have been growing in intensity since the February 20 Movement, a popular protest movement that has affected much of the country since 2011. Indeed, today there are more than 200 political prisoners in Morocco, and the intimidation, harassment and lawsuits are multiplying. Human rights activists, social movement activists, trade unionists and journalists are directly targeted. Not to mention exploitation and the contempt of the authorities -Hogra, which Moroccans have to face on a daily basis, and that can sometimes end in death as witnessed in the dreadful event that led to the death of Mohcine Fikri, a fish monger, crushed by a refuse truck in the Autumn of 2016 as he tried to get back his fish confiscated by the authorities. Since then, the population of the Rif region has been firmly mobilizing against these social injustices.

**On 24 may, seven activists, including five journalists, appear at the Court of First Instance in Rabat in a trial adjourned from November 18, 2015.**

On October 26, the authorities gave false pretexts for the trial to be postponed. After having argued last June that two of the accused were absent -even though their lawyers were present, in October the pretext was that summonses had not been served to some of the accused : "address unknown" for one and for another : "the accused's mother refused to accept the summons". This is absurd. The authorities have had the

addresses of each of the accused for a long time. And the mother in question declared that she had never actually received a summons. Indeed, in the absence of a court officer's justification, there is no evidence whatsoever that summonses were actually served.

On January 25, 2017, the day of the last postponement, the authorities still use the pretext of the absence of some of the accused to once again postpone the trial until May 24, 2017.

We do know, of course, that the authorities frequently use adjournments as a tactic to sap people's strength.

The accused are known for their activist work in defense of investigative and independent journalism, and for reporting news on the suppression of the February 20 Movement. They are also members of various organizations and because their activities are considered a disturbance, they have suffered harassment by the Moroccan government. Some of them have already been jailed recently following false accusations by the authorities, just because of their activism. It should also be noted that the judge in charge of the case was already the judge who in the past, sentenced one of the seven journalists! The repressive fury of the Moroccan authorities continues via its judicial tool!

### **Today, these seven comrades face very serious charges:**

**Maati Monjib** (historian, journalist and Chairman of *Freedom Now*, an organization which defends Freedom of Speech in Morocco and former chairman of the Ibn Rushd Center for Studies and Communication); **Hicham Mansouri** (a project leader at the Moroccan Association for Investigative Journalism, AMJI) **Abdessamad Ait Aishah aka Samad Iach** (journalist, member of the AMJI and former coordinator of the Ibn Rushd Center Training Project); **Hisham Khrinchi aka Hisham Almiraat** (former Director of Global Voices Advocacy, founder and former chairman of the Association of digital rights - DNA); and **Mohamed Sber** (Chairman of the Moroccan Association for Youth Education - AMEJ), are accused "of 'endangering state security', which may result in a sentence of five years in prison, under the pretext of organizing training courses for the use of free software applications on smartphones as part of their work (training provided by the Center Ibn Rushd and AMEJ, in partnership with the Dutch NGO Free Press Unlimited) and receiving funding from abroad.

**Rachid Tarik** (journalist, current chairman of the Moroccan Association for Investigative Journalism - AMJI) and **Maria Moukrim** (journalist, former chairwoman of the AMJI) are accused of not reporting to the authorities that they received funding from abroad for the activities of the association, although the regulations and rules of implementation are far from clear. They face a fine of 20,000 dirhams (€1,000 each).

This is not the first time this type of political trial has been held in Morocco and in recent years, we have stopped counting. We call for an international mobilization to break the media blackout on the current situation in Morocco of which our comrades, colleagues, and the Moroccan people are victim in their struggle for social justice against the dictatorship, the repression and systematic torture, the political trials, insecurity and exploitation.

**The Red and Black Coordination denounces the obstacles to Freedom of the Press and Freedom of Speech, but also the current shackling of political, trade**

**union and association liberties that is taking place in Morocco.**

**The Red and Black Coordination denounces the holding of this political trial, on the 24 May 2017, and demands the immediate dismissal of charges against Maati Monjib, Hicham Mansouri Abdessamad Ait Aicha, Hisham Khrinchi , Sber Mohamed Rachid Tarik and Maria Moukrim!**

**The Red and Black Coordination also demands the immediate release of all political prisoners held in Moroccan jails!**

We call on union and political organizations and associations and comrades to express their support for the 7 accused militants by sending *en masse* a letter by mail or by fax to the Moroccan authorities (sample letter below with mail contacts and fax ) requesting the dismissal of charges against them.

A petition of support committee was also put online, and you can sign here:

[https://secure.avaaz.org/fr/petition/Premier\\_Ministre\\_du\\_Maroc\\_Ministre\\_de\\_la\\_Justice\\_Ministre\\_de\\_linterieur\\_Abandon\\_des\\_charges\\_retenues\\_a\\_lencontre\\_des\\_sep/?pv=10](https://secure.avaaz.org/fr/petition/Premier_Ministre_du_Maroc_Ministre_de_la_Justice_Ministre_de_linterieur_Abandon_des_charges_retenues_a_lencontre_des_sep/?pv=10)

We also call on our comrades and fellow journalists and their unions or professional organization, to liaise with the support committee in order to keep informed of the situation, and of the trial, and to share information. Contact the support committee: [solidaritemonjib@gmail.com](mailto:solidaritemonjib@gmail.com)

**A Blow to One is a Blow to All!  
International Solidarity!**

23th may 2017,

**The Red and Black Coordination,**

Confederation General del Trabajo (CGT-E) - Spain

Confédération Nationale du Travail (CNT-F) - France

Libertarian Syndicalist Union (ESE) - Greece

Inicjatywa Pracownicza (IP) - Poland

Union Sindicale Italiana (USI) -Italia

Solidaridad Obrera (SO) - Spain

Svensk Arbetaren Centralorganisation (SAC) - Sweden.

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## **MODEL LETTER TO BE SENT TO THE AUTHORITIES:**

*(When you write to the authorities, please add the address of the Support Committee, [solidaritemonjib@gmail.com](mailto:solidaritemonjib@gmail.com) , so that we can keep track of your support.)*

### **→ Subject line:**

**TRIAL OF MAY 24 TPI RABAT / IMMEDIATE CANCELLATION OF PROSECUTION FOR 7 JOURNALISTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS!**

### **→ Text:**

*" (City / Country, ... / ... / 2017)*

*(... Your name or the name of your organization, association...)*

*Dear Sir or Madame,*

*We demand the immediate cancellation of proceedings against Maati Monjib, Hicham Mansouri Abdessamad Ait Aicha, Hisham Khrinchi, Sber Mohamed Rachid Tarik and Maria Moukrim, standing trial this Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at the Tribunal of First Instance, Rabat.*

*We express our solidarity with the seven Human Rights activists and journalists who have been accused of serious offences by your authorities, including that of "endangering state security", simply for having participated in the defense of free and independent investigative journalism.*

*We denounce the barriers against freedom of the press and expression, as well as violations of political, trade union and association freedoms in Morocco today, and demand the release of all political prisoners in Moroccan jails! "*

## **CONTACTS OF MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES:**

### **→ To facilitate simple "copying and pasting", here is a list of email contacts:**

courrier@pm.gov.ma, ministere@maec.gov.ma, ccdh@ccdh.org.ma,  
mission.maroc@ties.itu.int, mission.maroc@skynet.be, info@amb-maroc.fr,  
cons.bastia@maec.gov.ma, consumab2@wanadoo.fr, cgmaroc.colombes@gmail.com,  
cgrm.dijon@maec.gov.ma, consumalille@maec.gov.ma, cons.mars@wanadoo.fr,  
consumamontp@wanadoo.fr, consulatorleans@maec.gov.ma, cgm.orly@maec.gov.ma,  
cgm.pontoise@maec.gov.ma, consumarenne@wanadoo.fr, consumastras@noos.fr,  
consulatgeneraltoulouse@gmail.com, consulatmaroclyon@maec.gov.ma

- Prime Minister Fax: +212 37 76 99 95/37 76 86 56. Email: courrier@pm.gov.ma

- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation. fax: +212 - 37-76-55-08 / 37-76-46-79. Email: ministere@maec.gov.ma

- Justice Ministry. Fax: +212 37 72 68 56. Email: ccdh@ccdh.org.ma

- Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland Fax: + (41) 022 791 81 80. Email: mission.maroc@ties.itu.int

- Ambassador of Morocco Mission to the European Union. Phone: +32 26263410 / 26263414. Email: mission.maroc@skynet.be