

Moroccan prisons: The escalation of repression

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The transfer of nearly 100 prisoners from various prisons towards the Kenitra prison, on October 9th, 2010, was conducted in a excessive violence. Upon their arrival in the Central Prison of Kenitra, the guards were waiting for them to sustain beatings and torture.

At dawn on Saturday, October 9th, 2010, between 89 and 140 inmates Islamists, according to sources, from several Moroccan prisons were been transferred to the prison of Kenitra. This transfer took place in a simultaneous manner and was conducted according to the same modus operandi:

The inmates were awakened in the middle of the night by guards and forced, handcuffed and blindfolded, in police vans.

They have been object of serious violence by guards that stole all their belongings, including their clothing.

Upon arrival at the prison in Kenitra, they were greeted by guards excited who insulted, threatened with death, beat and stripped naked. Among those inmates who expressed any objection were treated harder, they were suspended for hours by wrists under the beatings of the guards.

The "welcome" was directed by the director of the institution in person, Mustapha Hadjli who encouraged guards to torture transferred prisoners.

Transferred inmates are vast majority of Islamists sentenced to long terms in unjust trials occurred in recent years. They were incarcerated in six different prisons: "Tangier, Fez, Meknes Souk Larbaa, Beni Slimane and Okasha (Casablanca).

Families who have been allowed to visit their relatives on 11th October 2010 found that all bore signs of beatings and torture. In addition, relatives themselves have been object of a particularly humiliating body search.

This extreme repression is undeniably a serious escalation in the treatment of political prisoners in Morocco arrested for their political and religious beliefs sentenced to severe penalties in mock trials often based on confessions extracted under torture. This kind of treatment reflects the willingness of political authorities to choose confrontation rather than appeasement in its management opposition.

Source : ALKARAMA*

http://fr.alkarama.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=830:prisons-marocaines-lescalade-de-la-repression&catid=30:communiqu&Itemid=99

*Alkarama (Dignity) is a non-governmental organisation founded in 2004 by a team of volunteer lawyers and activists on human rights to help ensure the promotion and protection of human rights, especially in the Arab World.