

(Translated from Arabic)

The Republic of Tunisia

**Reply from the Ministry of Justice concerning the situation of the prisoner
Sabeur Lajili**

According to the communication from the special procedure mechanisms of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva (the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health), the mechanisms received information concerning the deteriorating health of Mr. Sabeur Lajili, the former Director of the Counter-Terrorist Unit and Director of Tourist Security, who is charged with undermining State security and is currently detained, and who has allegedly been deprived of appropriate medical treatment.

I have the honour to provide you with the following information:

After Sabeur Lajili was transferred to Mornaguia Prison on 7 September 2017, he underwent a preliminary medical examination and supplementary analyses, and was provided with the previously prescribed drugs. With a view to overseeing the prisoner's health status, the Head of the Department of [REDACTED] at the Military Hospital in Tunis was contacted to obtain a medical report regarding his state of health. As his condition required an expedited surgery, the Head of the [REDACTED] Department at Rabta Hospital was contacted on 25 September 2017 and he was examined by a specialist physician on 9 October 2017.

A supplementary scan was then scheduled to determine developments in his condition and the date of 16 November 2017 was set for the scan. However, given the sensitivity of his health condition, especially since the period between the first scan and the medical appointment exceeded three months, it was decided not to wait for the scheduled date and to conduct a scan at a private clinic at the expense of the prison social fund.

With a view to further supervision of the health status of the prisoner Sabeur Lajili, blood tests were conducted on 13 October 2017 to determine his [REDACTED] condition, and on 14 October 2017 an in-depth [REDACTED] was conducted and [REDACTED]. On 25 October 2017, the situation was coordinated with the Head of the [REDACTED] Department at Rabta Hospital, and the prisoner was presented to him on 31 October 2017 with all the previous detailed reports.

On completion of the [REDACTED] analyses on 3 November 2017 and following an [REDACTED] on 6 November 2017, the prisoner was admitted to the [REDACTED] Department of Rabta Hospital on 13 November 2017, where he underwent successful surgery on 14 November 2017 to remove his [REDACTED].

The prisoner Sabeur Lajili was returned to prison following the operation pursuant to a decision taken by the hospital physicians after they had ensured that his vital signs were normal and that the wound had healed. He was placed in a special cell in the prison clinic in order to complete his convalescence and to remain under medical care. He continued to communicate with his physician and to be transferred to the hospital on the specified dates.

Blood tests were conducted on 29 January 2018 to determine the status of his [REDACTED] and the results were normal. A [REDACTED] of his [REDACTED] was undertaken on 31 January 2018 and the results did not reveal the outbreak of any disease or negative complications.

He was examined by his physician at the outpatient [REDACTED] Department on 14 February 2018 and the results were normal. He requested a [REDACTED] on 3 April



2018. It was undertaken on the same date and the result was normal and devoid of any negative complications. He also requested an appointment for an examination and scan within three months.

With a view to preparing him for the scan, blood tests were conducted on 25 June 2018 to assess his [REDACTED] status. The results showed a slight increase in the [REDACTED]. He was therefore sent on 27 June 2018 to the Manouba private medical centre to obtain the opinion of a specialist [REDACTED] who authorized an immediate analysis to confirm the [REDACTED] level. The result confirmed the previously recorded index and the specialist stated that a scan could not be conducted until the [REDACTED] level had been adjusted.

His physician at Rabta University Hospital (the head of the [REDACTED] Department) was contacted on 28 June 2018 and informed of the new data. He requested an additional blood test and the physician's recommendations were implemented. A blood sample was taken for analysis by Habib Thameur University Hospital on 30 June 2018 and he was taken again to the [REDACTED] Department of Rabta Hospital on 4 July 2018, which made an appointment for further treatment on 9 July 2018.

With regard to the inmate's diet, the doctors of the unit prescribed a special diet (without salt) and drew his attention to the need to ensure that edibles provided by his family were in line with the same diet. It should be noted that whenever the said person's condition required any supplementary medical examinations or blood tests, he was transferred to a private clinic, as in the case of the last scan conducted at the Manouba private medical centre at the expense of the Directorate General for Prisons and Rehabilitation.

On 9 July 2018 a working session supervised by the Director-General of Prisons and Rehabilitation was attended by the head of the [REDACTED] of Health, Dr. [REDACTED] and prisoner Sabeur Lajili's defence group. His health status was discussed during the session.

The prisoner has been in the [REDACTED] Department of Rabta Hospital since 18 July 2018 and has undergone the requisite analyses and examinations, the results of which have been normal. The Department is awaiting the results of the [REDACTED] analysis. The Minister of Justice issued instructions on 19 July 2018 calling for the immediate admission of the prisoner to the hospital, compliance with the medical opinion and provision of all necessary treatment.

On 6 August 2018, the Directorate General for Prisons and Rehabilitation received a request from the [REDACTED] Department of the hospital to return the prisoner to the prison unit since all necessary analyses had been completed. The request was not met following the receipt of a report from Dr. [REDACTED] confirming that the prisoner's condition requires close and accurate medical supervision and regular blood pressure tests so that prompt medical assistance may be provided, especially when he complains of [REDACTED] pain, and so that he can be protected from [REDACTED] tensions conducive to [REDACTED]. Dr. [REDACTED] nonetheless recognized the possibility of returning the prisoner to the custody unit.
