



March 2018

## Take action for Ali Aarrass

### Morocco

**Population:** 33,986,655

**Capital:** Rabat

**Language:** Arabic, Modern Standard Arabic

**Question:** Which European country is closest to Morocco?



Map data ©2018 Google

### ALI'S STORY

Ali was born in the Spanish city of Melilla in North Africa and moved to Belgium when he was 15 years old. He returned to Melilla in 2005 with his wife to live close to his ageing father.

In 2006, Spanish authorities suspected Ali of terrorism and a judge began an investigation but found no evidence.

In 2008, Moroccan authorities asked for Ali's extradition which means to send someone to a different country where they are accused of a crime. The Spanish government put Ali in prison and kept him in solitary confinement for 2 years and 8 months meaning that he was not allowed to see anyone.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010, Ali was forced to go to Morocco even though Amnesty International and the United Nations Human Rights Committee warned that extradition would put Ali at risk of an unfair trial and being tortured – which means badly hurt.

While in Morocco, Ali was tortured in a secret prison. He was then convicted of a crime based on a confession which he made whilst being hurt.

A doctor and a representative of the United Nations have both confirmed what had been done to Ali but the Moroccan authorities have not properly investigated how Ali has been treated.

In 2016 Ali was moved to a prison in Rabat which is the capital of Morocco. He has been kept in solitary confinement and is allowed to go into the courtyard of the prison for only one hour a day.

Ali sleeps on a concrete slab and is allowed to have a shower and call his family only once a week.

In 2014 Amnesty youth groups made a joke book for Ali as he has a great sense of humour. He loved it. We want to send Ali more messages of hope and solidarity.

# Right in the Spotlight



## ARTICLE 5

**“Nobody has the right to hurt us or torture us.”**

## ARTICLE 9

**“Nobody has the right to put us in prison without a good reason, to keep us there or to send us away from our country.”**

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights Simplified Version*

### TALKING POINTS

- Is there ever a good reason to hurt or torture someone? Why?
- Why do you think Ali was hurt while in prison?
- Is there ever a good reason to put someone in prison? Why?
- Do you think Ali was put in prison for a good reason in Spain? Or in Morocco? Why?
- Do you think Ali should have been extradited (forced to go) to Morocco? Why?
- What do you think the Spanish government *should* have done when Morocco asked for his extradition?
- What do you think the Moroccan government *should* have done when they were told Ali had been tortured?

**“During my hour in the prison courtyard, after finishing the physical exercises, I always end up lifting up my eyes towards the sky. I just see it as a blue square, I observe and memorize it for the sad moments, in order to remind me that one day soon I will have again the right to observe it as a whole and among my people. The blue square reminds me that you are all still there outside under the same blue sky bothering yourselves for me. I cannot ignore all this effort and sink into depression. I learnt to be very patient, otherwise that would be hard.”**

**Ali Aarrass**

# Take Action!



We take action for people all over the world, like Ali, who have had their rights taken away from them. We do this through solidarity actions and appeal actions.

**What does solidarity action mean?** Solidarity actions are sent to the people who have had their human rights taken away, and to their family and friends, to let them know that people are supporting them in their struggle for justice.



## Take solidarity action




**Draw or photograph a picture of something you would like to see if you had been in prison for 7 years like Ali.**

**Write a message of hope and encouragement for Ali.**

**Let Ali know that you wish he is reunited with his family soon.**

We are sending your messages of solidarity to the prison where Ali is being held. We hope that this will give him some warmth and strength, and we also want to show the prison officers that we care about him.

### CAN I?

-  Send a religious card or message
-  Mention Amnesty International
-  Include my full name and address. (You can add your first name if you wish.)



**Send your letters and cards to us** and we will forward them on:

Thomas Hughes  
Human Rights Education Unit  
Freepost RLUU-XXEY-CTEE  
Amnesty International  
17-25 New Inn Yard  
London EC2A 3EA

*Don't forget to include your name and the name of your school with your cards and letters (but not on the cards themselves).*

# Junior Urgent Action Cover Letter

**Please include this with any items you submit**

*Amnesty International will record this information to monitor the effectiveness and reach of our actions*

Name of teacher/guardian submitting these items: .....

Are you a: ☐ Teacher  
☐ Parent  
☐ Other – please specify

Email: .....

School name: .....

School address: .....

Home address: .....

Number of items included in this envelope: .....

## **Please can you tell us the following?**

How many young people did you use these resources with? .....

If a teacher, which year groups did you use these resources with? .....

How would you rate the quality of these resources? (Tick one box)

☐ 5 excellent      ☐ 4      ☐ 3      ☐ 2      ☐ 1 poor

Any other comments? .....

☐ Tick if you would like to join our Teachrights e-newsletter which is a great way to receive info on future educational packs.

☐ Tick here if you would like to receive email updates about the full range of Amnesty's work – including information about our campaigns, fundraising appeals and events – and the impact we can have by working together

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