



ADOPT A PRISONER PROFILE: HABIB IGNAOUA PREPARED : Dec 2009

AGE	48
NATIONALITY	Tunisian
COUNTRY HELD	Italy
SENTENCE	Remand
PRISON	ASTI **

NO PHOTO SUPPLIED

Personal Biography *

Habib Ignaoua is 48 Years old, and from Tunisia originally, and has at least one brother and sister. He has one daughter, Salma. He was married to one sister in Italy, and then remarried in 2007. In 1992, he was arrested by the Tunisian authorities because he was a muslim who attended the mosque frequently and was known to be religious. The Tunisian government interrogated him for many months, asking him to account for his movements and also about his friends and family. He was eventually released in 1993 and fled Tunisia with his wife and young daughter to Italy, where his wife was already a citizen.

In 1998, he was arrested by Italy and questioned in relation to investigations related to a mosque that he attended in Milan. He was never convicted nor given a trial, however the Italians seized his residency papers and refused to return them, which would allow them to deport him to Tunisia whatever the outcome of their enquiries.

At approximately the same time, his daughter was taken from him and his wife and put into care with the Italian government at a school run by nuns. The Tunisian government at the same time tried Habib in absentia, sentencing him to 50 years in prison by a military court.

Habib was able to take his daughter from the reform school and instructed both her and her mother to leave the country. Habib was able to establish from his daughter that she had suffered greatly during the forced separation by the Italians, and was extremely concerned for her should she remain in Italy. He made a decision that her and her mother should return to Tunisia, whilst he would seek asylum away from the Tunisian and Italian governments.

He arrived in the UK in 2006, and was able to remarry whilst in London, but sadly the Tunisian Authorities would not permit his daughter to have a passport. She was questioned about Habib, his whereabouts and whether he sends money to his family. Only when Habib was arrested in 2007 was his daughter given a passport. The UK Borders Agency also prevented his daughter visiting the UK and Habib, despite having proof that the only reason she wished to visit was to see her father, whom she has not seen for over 10 years.

Brief Details about his Case

Habib has been subjected to a witch-hunt on the part of the Italians for many years, as they have labelled him as a facilitator for terrorism, all accusations and none of which he has ever been convicted of in Italy, the UK or any western country. He was arrested in 2007 in the United Kingdom, based upon a European Arrest Warrant by Italy. He was extradited to Italy in November 2008, and since then has suffered physical and mental abuse by the Italians in an effort to frustrate his efforts to prepare for trial, which has been adjourned until January 2009.

Why Should I Adopt Habib?

Habib is a very strong-willed individual, and possesses a great spirit that refuses to let his situation get him depressed or demotivated. He has shown great courage and commitment in supporting the brothers in prison with him, and as a result the prison authorities tend to make his life difficult. He desperately needs letters from the ummah to let him know that we are there supporting the brother in the difficulties he faces. He would really appreciate some mail reassuring him and the other brothers with him of this.

MAILING ADDRESS

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* Disclaimer: This biography is written through availability of primary, secondary and tertiary sources and though efforts have been made to ensure its accuracy, this does not mean that it is free from error. As such, this item should not be referred to in newspaper reports, publications or court documents.

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