

Network of Concerned Historians				NCH
Campaigns				
Year original	Year follow-up	Circular	Country	Names
2015		77	Morocco	<i>Maâti Monjib</i>
	2015			<i>follow-up 1</i>

Announcement

Our colleague, Moroccan historian Maâti Monjib is in his 21st day of hunger strike, which started on 6 October 2015. In the meantime, he has been transferred to the hospital. Many of you already signed the petition. Those who did not yet, please show your solidarity urgently and sign [here](#) today or follow the link:

https://secure.avaaz.org/fr/petition/Regime_marocain_Freedom_Now_Solidarite_avec_lhistorien_Maati_Monjib/?pv=5

Below is a summary of his case.

Maâti Monjib is a political historian (University of Mohammed V-Rabat). Born in Morocco, he got his first Ph.D in France (North African politics) and another one in Senegal (African political history). He is a member of the Institut des Études Africaines (IEA; Institute for African Studies) at Mohamed V University in Rabat and the chairman (since early 2014) of the Rabat-based NGO Freedom Now–Comité pour la protection de la liberté de la presse et d’expression and the Association marocaine de journalisme d’investigation (AMJI; Moroccan Association of Investigative Journalism). He was also a founding member of the support council of the 20 February Movement, which organised protests in Morocco at the beginning of the Arab Spring.

A long campaign of harassment and intimidation was waged against him, including threats and defamatory articles in newspapers and on news sites. He founded and directed the Ibn Rochd Center for Studies and Communication in Rabat which trained hundreds of Moroccan journalists in investigative techniques and civic journalism. In December 2014, he shut down the institute after repeated interference from the state. On 31 August 2015, he was detained briefly at the airport when returning from France. He was told that he was under investigation for “endangering state security.” On 14 September 2015, he was interrogated by the Brigade Nationale de la Police Judiciaire (BNPJ) and accused of tarnishing Morocco’s

image abroad, using foreign funds to promote a foreign agenda and sabotaging the credibility of state institutions. His associates have also been questioned. On 16 September 2015, he went on hunger strike for the first time (until 19 September) after being barred from leaving Morocco for a conference in Barcelona. The IEA board refused to give him permission to travel to Norway to attend two academic events related to his expertise. On 6 October 2015, he went on hunger strike at the headquarters of the Moroccan Association for Human Rights, Rabat, to protest against the restrictions against his freedom of movement and his academic freedom. He was admitted to hospital on 13 October. On 20 October 2015, the secretariat of the National Committee to Support Maati Monjib issued a statement reporting a rapid deterioration in his health after fourteen days of hunger strike, and called for a show of solidarity with Monjib on 21 October in front of parliament.

Monjib is the author of *La Monarchie marocaine et la lutte pour le pouvoir: Hassan II face à l'opposition nationale* (The Moroccan Monarchy and the Struggle for Power: Hassan II Facing the National Opposition) (Paris: L'Harmattan, 1992), *A Political Biography of Mehdi Ben Barka*, with Z. Daoud (Paris: Éditions Michalon, 1996–2000), and editor of *Islamists Versus Secularists in Morocco*, ed. (Amsterdam: IKV, 2009).

[Sources: Maâti Monjib, Personal information (11 & 13 & 15 & 25 October 2015); Freedom Now, [Petition text](#) (11 September 2015); Biographical notes, [Codesria](#) and [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#); Paul Schemm, "[Moroccan Journalist on Hunger Strike, Barred From Leaving](#)," *AP* (17 September 2015); Reporters without Borders, "[Monarchy's Red Lines Gag Morocco's Independent Media](#)" (17 September 2015); Middle East Studies Association, "[Letters on Morocco](#)" (13 October 2015); Wagdy Sawahel, "[Academic on Hunger Strike over Travel Ban, Harassment](#)," *University World News* (22 October 2015).]