

[Translation]

Republic of Tunisia

Tunisia, August 3, 2018

Ministry of Interior

Registry (Diwan)

Human Rights Department

1 4022

[From] Minister of Interior

To

Director of Human Rights Watch Office in Tunis

Subject: Regarding the inclusion of an annex to the report on assessing the requirements of law No. 5 of 2016 entitled “You say you want a lawyer?”

Attachments: Additional Information Card

Greetings, following your report issued in June 2018, titled “You say you want a lawyer? Tunisia’s New Law on Detention, on Paper and in Practice,” which included a set of observations and recommendations on the monitoring and assessment of the implementation of law number 5 of 2016, related to the revision of the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedures to give more guarantees to detainees before a preliminary examiner, namely the right to contact a lawyer, as part of the efforts to further establish the standards of fair trial, which are guaranteed in many regional and international agreements,

And following the release of the mentioned report, you have expressed your readiness to further enrich it by asking the Ministry of Interior to add an annex on some important and updated statistical figures recorded from June 1, 2016, when the law became effective, until June 2017,

Hence, it is my pleasure to provide you with the requested information in the attachment, while noting that the Ministry of Interior shall remain readily available to develop mutual cooperation relations with Human Rights Watch, towards further protection and strengthening of the human rights system and values in security work.

Best Regards,

Minister of Interior

Head of the Registry

Rachad al-Harsi

Additional Information Card

(Figures cover the period from June 1, 2016 until June 1, 2017).

1/ **Total number of individuals held in custody:** 49,970 suspects.

2/ **Number of lawyers provided by regional lawyer branches:** 1,126 lawyers.

3/ **Number of lawyers appointed by individuals who are facing charges while not in custody:** 8,728 lawyers.

4/ **Number of petitions submitted by citizens claiming being denied using their right to legal representation or their right to contact a lawyer:** Offices of the Ministry of Interior (sectoral inspectorates/human rights department, office for citizen relations...) has not recorded the receipt of petitions from individuals claiming being denied their right to contact a lawyer.

5/ **Number of claims on suspected incidents of torture:** Concerned offices of the Ministry of Interior (security and National Guard structures) recorded a total of 03 claims submitted on suspicion of torture (being currently revised by the judiciary). These include **two** incidents involving National Security, and **one incident** involving the National Guard.