

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 59/93 Fear of Torture

5 March 1993

EGYPT: 'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im, 27, journalist
 'Abdallah Mohammad Mohammad Salim
 Magdi Mohammad Mohammad Salim

Amnesty International has received reports that **'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im, 'Abdallah Mohammad Mohammad Salim and Magdi Mohammad Mohammad Salim** were arrested in Cairo at the end of February 1993 by members of the Giza branch of the State Security Intelligence and their whereabouts remain unknown. There are fears that they may be subjected to torture in custody.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The three people mentioned above have been arrested several times in the past and were reportedly tortured to make them confess or give information on suspected members or sympathizers of banned Islamic militant groups. **'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im** was arrested in 1981 and detained until 1984, re-arrested again in 1987, 1988 and in September 1989 when he was held in solitary confinement at the State Security Intelligence Directorate at Lazoghly for one month, during which he was subjected to torture, including the appliance of electric shocks on different parts of his body. He was re-arrested again in July 1990 and detained for three weeks.

Thousands of people, including possible prisoners of conscience, have been rounded up and arrested for political reasons under state of emergency legislation in the last few months. Most are members or sympathizers of banned Islamic militant groups such as al-Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group) and Gihad (Holy War). Many were arrested after clashes between members of these groups and the security forces, particularly in Upper Egypt and in certain popular districts of Cairo. However, during one week in early December 1992 more than 700 suspected members or sympathizers of Islamic militant groups were rounded up and arrested in Imbaba, a popular district of Cairo. Later in the same month at least 145 others were arrested in 'Ain Shams, another of the poorer Cairo districts. Hundreds more were arrested at the beginning of 1993. On one day, 11 February 1993, 290 suspected members or sympathizers of these groups were reportedly arrested in different parts of the country.

Hundreds of people currently held in Abu Za'bal and Istiqbal Tora Prisons had reportedly been tortured by the Firaq al-'Amn (security brigades) of Asyut, Qena and Dayrut before being transferred to those prisons. The most common methods of torture reported to Amnesty International are beatings, suspension,

burning with cigarettes and electric shocks, and psychological torture. Torture takes place in police stations, the headquarters of the State Security Intelligence at Lazoghly Square and in the buildings of the Firag al-'Amn throughout the country.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Arabic, English, French or in your own language:

- expressing concern that at reports that 'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im, 'Abdallah Mohammad Mohammad Salim and Magdi Mohammad Mohammad Salim are being detained incommunicado following their arrest in Cairo in late February 1993;
- urging that their place of detention be made known;
- seeking assurances that they are being humanely treated and urging that they be allowed prompt and regular access to a lawyer of their own choosing, to their families and, if necessary, to a medical doctor;
- seeking information about the exact reasons for their arrest and whether or not they have been charged.

APPEALS TO

1) General Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Moussa
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Al-Sheikh Rihan Street
Bab al-Louk
Cairo, Egypt

Telegrams: Minister of Interior, Cairo, Egypt
Telexes: 21361 MOICM UN
Faxes: + 20 2 355 7792

Salutation: Dear Minister

2) General Mostafa 'Abd al-Qadir
Director
State Security Investigation Service
Lazoghly Square
Cairo, Egypt

**Telegrams: General 'Abd al-Qadir, State Security Investigation Service,
Cairo, Egypt**

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Mr 'Amre Moussa
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Midan al-Tahrir
Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: + 20 2 723 173

and to diplomatic representatives of Egypt accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 April 1993.