

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety/health concerns/ incommunicado detention

21 February 2003

EGYPT

Kamal Khalil (m), aged 53 - engineer

Kamal Khalil, a married father of two has not been seen since he left his home in Giza, on 19 February at around 11 am. He is believed to be held in incommunicado detention by State Security Intelligence (SSI) forces and is at risk of torture or ill-treatment. There are serious concerns for his health, as the stitches from a recent hernia operation were only removed six days ago and he is on medication.

Kamal Khalil has been campaigning against a war with Iraq and last week, his family noticed that their home was under surveillance. On numerous occasions in the past, Kamal Khalil has been detained in connection with his political activities. In 1989 he was seriously injured after having been beaten and kicked by security officers in Abu Za'abal Prison, north of the capital Cairo.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past few weeks, more than a dozen political activists and anti-war demonstrators have been detained. Some have been held for more than a month in administrative detention under emergency legislation. The relatives of a recent detainee did not know where he was being held for approximately one week. A journalist and political activist reported on his release, that he was beaten and blindfolded while detained at the headquarters of the SSI.

In November 2002, the UN Committee against Torture expressed "particular concern at the widespread evidence of torture and ill-treatment in administrative premises under the control of the State Security Investigation Department, the infliction of which is reported to be facilitated by the lack of any mandatory inspection by an independent body of such premises". In 1995 the UN Special Rapporteur on torture called for a total ban on incommunicado detention.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or English or your own language:

- expressing concern that Kamal Khalil, is held in incommunicado detention;
- urging the authorities to reveal where Kamal Khalil is held, and to give him access to his lawyer, relatives and medical attention;
- calling on the authorities to provide a guarantee that Kamal Khalil will not be tortured or ill-treated in detention;
- calling for Kamal Khalil to be immediately released if not to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Mohammad Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
'Abedine Palace, Cairo, Egypt

Telegram: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt
E-mail: webmaster@presidency.gov.eg
Fax: + 202 390 1998
Telex: 93794 WAZRA UN
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency General Habib al-Adeli
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Al-Sheikh Rihan Street
Bab al-Louk, Cairo, Egypt
Telegram: Minister of Interior, Cairo, Egypt
E-mail: moi@idsc.gov.eg
Fax: + 202 579 2031
Salutation: Dear Minister

His Excellency Mr Faruq Sayf al-Nasr
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Midan Lazoghly, Cairo, Egypt
Telegrams: Minister of Justice, Cairo, Egypt
E-mail: moheb@idsc.gov.eg
Fax: + 202 795 8103
Salutation: Dear Minister

Counsellor Maher 'Abd al-Wahid
Public Prosecutor
Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali
Ramses Street, Cairo, Egypt
Fax: + 202 577 4716

COPIES 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 4 April 2003.