

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 130/93 (MDE 12/04/93, 23 April 1993 and follow-up: MDE 12/08/93, 10 June 1993) - Death Penalty

EGYPT: Al-Sharif Hassan AHMED - EXECUTED 13 June 1993

The following are believed to be awaiting execution:

Hassan Shahata BADRAN

Bastawi 'Abd al-Hamid ABU AL-MAGD (aged 19)

Sa'id Amin ABU AL-MAGD (aged 23)

Ashraf Sa'id 'ABD RABBU (aged 22)

Drawi Mohammad Ibrahim 'ABD AL-MUTALLIB (aged 19)

Ahmed 'Abd al-Rahim RADWAN (aged 20)

'Abd al-Hadi al-Saghir TAYI' (aged 20)

'Abd al-Hamid Al-Zamqan 'ALI (aged 25)

At 10.20 am on 13 June 1993 Al-Sharif Hassan Ahmed was hanged in Cairo's Isti'naf Prison. He had been convicted by a military court of, among other things, membership of an underground "terrorist" organization which calls for the overthrow of the government, planning to assassinate state officials, possession of weapons and theft (please see UA 24/93, MDE 12/01/93, 1 February 1993).

According to the newspaper al-Ahram (14 June 1993) Hassan Shahata Badran is expected to be executed in the course of this week. He was convicted of murdering a state security official in early December 1992.

The remaining seven were sentenced to death on 22 April 1993. They were charged with membership of an illegal "terrorist" group, with the aim of hitting tourism and the Egyptian economy, and planning to overthrow the government. They have been transferred to Isti'naf Prison, where they also await execution.

All the above were sentenced to death by military courts, though all are civilians. The death sentences were subject to ratification by the Prime Minister and then review by the Military Appeals' Bureau, before being referred to the President of the Republic. Amnesty International believes that such procedures fall short of international standards for fair trial, as guaranteed by Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Egypt is a state party, which guarantee that everyone who is convicted shall have the right to their conviction and sentence being reviewed by a higher tribunal. The UN's Economic and Social Council has urged that these rights be respected in all cases involving the death penalty.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail

letters either in Arabic, English or your own language:

- expressing grave concern at the execution of Al-Sharif Hassan Ahmed;
- urging that the other eight people mentioned above not be executed and that the President use his constitutional right to grant clemency and commute these death sentences;

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- expressing concern at the sudden upsurge in the use of the death penalty in Egypt (22 death sentences have been passed by military courts since December 1992), and explaining Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the most extreme form of cruel and inhuman punishment;
- stating that in Amnesty International's view the death penalty is not an effective deterrent to violent crime;
- drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, in accordance with Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Egypt is a state party.

APPEALS TO:

1) His Excellency
Muhammad Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
'Abedine Palace
Cairo, Egypt
Telegram: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt
Telexes: 93794 WAZRA UN

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil
Cairo, Egypt

2) His Excellency
Mr Faruq Sayf al-Nasr
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Maydan Lazoghly
Cairo, Egypt

and to diplomatic representatives of Egypt accredited to your country. The World Conference on Human Rights is being held in Austria this month and you can enhance the power of your appeals by also sending copies to the diplomatic representative of Egypt in Austria during June at the following address:

Egyptian Embassy:

The Ambassador
Botschaft der Arabischen Republik Ägypten
Kreindlgasse 22
1010 Wien, Austria
Faxes: 43 1 36 11 34 27

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 July 1993.