

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 286/93 (MDE 12/12/93, 24 August 1993) - Death Penalty

EGYPT: Ramadhan Mostafa Mohammad HASSAN) held in
 'Ali Fayed MAYHUB (note corrected name) prison
 Sayyid 'ABD AL-RAZIQ)
 Hisham Mohammad MAS'UD (sentenced in absentia)

Amnesty International has learned that the death sentences passed on the four people named above will not be subject to further review and so those three held in prison could be executed at any time. All four were tried by the Supreme Military Court on 21 August 1993 and charged with membership of an illegal organization "Al-Shawqiyin" and committing murders.

All the above were sentenced to death by a military court, even though all of them are civilians. The death sentences were subject to ratification by the President of the Republic, and then review by the Military Appeals' Bureau, also headed by 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 United Nations' 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, French, English or your own language:

- expressing concern at the death sentences passed on the four men named above and at reports that they will not be subject to further review;
- urging that the President use his constitutional right to grant clemency and commute these and other death sentences passed recently by military courts;
- urging an immediate review of military trial procedures to ensure that they comply with international standards to which Egypt is a state party;
- expressing concern at the sudden upsurge in the use of the death penalty in Egypt (26 death sentences have been passed by military courts since December 1992 and 14 executions have now taken place), 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;
- 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:

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.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 October 1993.