

PUBLIC

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UA 100/02

Death Pen

**EGYPT** Badriya Shawqi 'Abd al-Razzaq (f)

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Badriya Shawqi 'Abd al-Razzaq was sentenced to death on 31 March, and is at risk of execution. She was convicted of the murder of her husband.

As normal, the death sentence was passed on to the Mufti, the highest religious authority in Egypt, for approval. Final verdicts are sent to the President, or someone nominated by him, who has the right to grant a pardon or commute the sentence.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Egyptian courts have increased their use of the death penalty in the last few years, despite the world trend towards abolition. At least 67 people, including five women, were sentenced to death in 2001, and at least four people are known to have been executed. The death penalty is applied for criminal offences such as drug use or trafficking, murder and offences related to "terrorism".

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life. The death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments and is brutalizing to all involved in its application. More than 100 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice.

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

- acknowledging that Badriya Shawqi 'Abd al-Razzaq has been convicted of a very serious crime, but pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments, and that it is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- expressing your opposition to the death penalty in all cases, as a violation of the right to life, as set out in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which says that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person";
- urging the Mufti not to approve this death sentence or any others that come before him;
- urging the President to use his constitutional powers to grant clemency and commute this and all other outstanding death sentences;
- drawing attention to the world trend towards abolishing or reducing 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 Mohammad Hosni Mubarak  
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
'Abedine Palace, Cairo, Egypt

**Telex:** 93794 WAZRA UN

**Fax:** + 202 390 1998

**e-mail:** webmaster@presidency.gov.eg

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

M. Ahmed Mohamed El-Tayeb  
Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Wakf Ministry  
Sabri Abou Alam Street

Bab al-Louk, Cairo, Egypt

**Telegram: Mufti of the Republic, Wakf Ministry, Cairo, Egypt**

**Fax: + 202 3926 155 (If somebody picks up the phone, please ask them to turn the fax machine on)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

Mr Hussein Dharar

The Human Rights Department

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt

**Fax: + 202 574 9533**

Dr Fathi Sorour

Speaker

The People's Assembly

Magles al-Sha'ab Street, Cairo, Egypt

**Fax: + 202 574 9175**

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 9 May 2002.