

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/16/95

Distrib: PG/SC

Date: 18 August 1995

*MEDICAL CONCERN*

Dr Mahmoud Mubarak Ahmad  
EGYPT

Amnesty International has learned that Dr Mahmoud Mubarak Ahmad, a 28-year-old unmarried doctor working in a hospital in Kitkata, a village in Sohag in the south of Egypt, was arbitrarily arrested on 24 January 1995 by officers of the State Security Investigations Department (SSI). No one was informed of his arrest or his whereabouts until 14 July 1995 when his family learned that he was detained in Istiqbal Tora Prison.

The family also learned that Dr Mahmoud Mubarak Ahmad had been arrested while driving from Kitkata to Sohag and that he had been held in the SSI branch in Sohag first, then in Sohag Prison before he was transferred to Istiqbal Tora Prison on 4 July. Political prisoners and detainees in this prison have been denied access to lawyers and families since September 1994. Amnesty International is concerned at the continuing detention without charge or trial of Dr Mahmoud Mubarak Ahmad and the fact that he is denied visits by his lawyers as well as his family.

**Background information**

Thousands of suspected members or sympathizers of banned Islamist groups have been detained without charge or trial under state of emergency legislation, in force in Egypt since 1981. Mass arrests continue unabated and political detainees have continued to be deprived of basic rights, including access to lawyers and families. Repeated decisions by courts of law to release political detainees for lack of evidence or failure to follow correct procedures continued to be flagrantly disregarded by the security forces with impunity. At the time of writing, some political detainees have been in administrative detention for up to five years. Torture of political detainees has continued, but prompt and impartial investigations have not been carried out, despite formal complaints by lawyers and local human rights organizations. Since October 1992, when President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak started to issue special decrees referring civilians to be tried by military courts, 64 death sentences have been passed by these courts and 48 executions have taken place.

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/16/95

Distrib: PG/SC

To: Medical professionals  
From: Medical Office / Middle East Regional Program  
Date: 18 August 1995

### *MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION*

**Mahmoud Mubarak Ahmad  
EGYPT**

#### **Keywords**

Theme: arbitrary arrest / detention without charge or trial

Profession/association: doctor

#### **Summary**

Dr Mahmoud Mubarak Ahmad, aged 28 and single, was arrested on 24 January 1995 in Kitkata in Sohag in the south of Egypt and has since been held without charge or trial and without access to a lawyer or to his family. AI is calling for his release unless he is to be charged with a recognizable crime.

#### **Recommended Actions**

Letters from medical professionals, preferably written in Arabic or English or your own language, should be sent to the addresses below:

- expressing concern at the continuing detention without charge or trial of Dr Mahmoud Mubarak Ahmad from Sohag
- seeking information on the reason for his detention and whether there are any plans to charge him with a recognizably criminal offense
- seeking assurances that he is being well-treated while in detention
- urging that he be given prompt access to his lawyers, family and medical care if required
- urging that he be released unless he is to be charged with a recognizable crime

#### **Addresses**

see over

*President*

H.E. Muhammad Hosni Mubarak  
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Abdine Palace  
Cairo, Egypt  
Fax: +20.2.937.94

Mrs Nagla Gabr  
The Human Rights Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Corniche al-Nil  
Cairo, Egypt  
Fax: + 20.2.723.173

General Hassan al-Asfy  
Minister of the Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
Al-Sheik Rihan Street  
Bab al-Louk  
Cairo, Egypt  
Fax: +20.2.355.7792

**Copies to:**

Egyptian Medical Syndicate  
"Dar el Hekmah"  
42 Kasr el-Eini Street  
Cairo, Egypt  
Fax: +20.2.356.4906

and to Egyptian diplomatic representatives in your own country.

Please send this information to your own national medical association asking them to appeal on behalf of Dr Ahmad.