

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 12/19/98

1 April 1998

**Further information on 69/98 (MDE 12/14/98, 5 March 1998) - Fear of torture/  
"Disappearance". New concern: Medical concern**

**EGYPT' Abd al-Rahman Lutfi, farmer aged 42 and secretary of the opposition Labour  
Party in Mallawi, Upper Egypt**

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New information has revealed that 'Abd al-Rahman Lutfi, who was considered "disappeared" since his arrest on 10 February, is being held in al-Wadi al-Gadid Prison in the desert southwest of Egypt. He has now been issued with a detention order by the Ministry of the Interior and is said to have started a second hunger strike protesting against his detention. There are serious concerns for his health.

'Abd al-Rahman Lutfi, the secretary of the opposition Labour Party in Mallawi, was arrested together with 'Ala' al-Din Higazi, a lawyer. Both were initially detained in the State Security Investigations building in Minya. The lawyer was released on 18 February but 'Abd al-Rahman Lutfi reportedly remained in detention there for a few days before being transferred to al-Wadi al-Gadid Prison.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/ airmail letters in Arabic, English, French or in your own language:**

- seeking information as to the exact reasons behind the continuing detention of 'Abd al-Rahman Lutfi;
- urging that if he is being held solely for the non-violent expression of his beliefs he would be considered as a prisoner of conscience and should be immediately and unconditionally released;
- urging that he be humanely treated and be given immediate access to medical care and to a lawyer.

**APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency General Habib al-'Adeli  
Minister of the Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
Al-Sheikh Rihan Street, Bab al-Louk, Cairo, Egypt  
**Telegrams: Minister Habib al-'Adeli, Cairo, Egypt**  
**Telexes: 21361 MOICM UN**  
**Faxes: + 202 579 2031**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

His Excellency Faruq Sayf al-Nasr  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
Midan Lazoghly, Cairo, Egypt  
**Telegrams: Minister Sayf al-Nasr, Cairo, Egypt**  
**Faxes: + 202 355 5700**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Ms Nayla Gabr  
The Human Rights Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt  
**Fax: + 202 574 9533**

Mr Raga' al-'Arabi  
Public Prosecutor  
Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali  
Ramses Street, Cairo, Egypt  
**Fax: + 202 574 0881**

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 14 may 1998.