

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/28/97

3 June 1997

Further information (2) on EXTRA 51/96 (MDE 12/09/96, 3 April 1996) and follow-up MDE 12/12/96, 10 May 1996 - Death Penalty

EGYPT Mohammad 'Abd al-Ra'uf Mahmoud
Ayman Kamal Mohammad
'Abd al-Nasser Abu Kharouf

Amnesty International is concerned that the death sentences handed down by the (Emergency) Supreme State Security Court on 2 April 1996 on Mohammad 'Abd al-Ra'uf Mahmoud, Ayman Kamal Mohammad and 'Abd al-Nasser Abu Kharouf were ratified by Prime Minister Kamal al-Ganzoury on 2 June 1997. Their only hope of clemency now lies with the President of the Republic who may commute death sentences within 15 days of their ratification or grant pardons. Amnesty International therefore fears that they are at imminent risk of execution.

The three men were sentenced to death in April 1996 in a case involving 29 alleged members of the armed Islamist group *al-Gama'a al-Islamiya* (Islamic Group). Charges against the defendants including killing three policemen and injuring others in Upper Egypt in 1993, membership of a banned organization and the possession of weapons.

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

- expressing concern that the death sentences handed down on Mohammad 'Abd al-Ra'uf Mahmoud, Ayman Kamal Mohammad and 'Abd al-Nasser Abu Kharouf have now been ratified, and that they may therefore be at imminent risk of execution;
- acknowledging the seriousness of the crimes for which the three men were convicted, but explaining your opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life, pointing out that it has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect and is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- urging the President to use his constitutional powers to grant clemency and commute these and all other pending death sentences;
- 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 Mohammad Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
'Abedine Palace, Cairo, Egypt
Telegrams: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt
Telexes: 93794 WAZRA UN
Faxes: +202 390 1998
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Ms Nayla Gabr
The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: (20 2) 574 9667

Dr Fathi Sorour
Speaker
The People's Assembly
Magles al-Sha'ab Street, 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 30 June 1997.