

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 12/029/2002

10 September 2002

Further information on UA 227/02 (MDE 12/025/2002, 16 July 2002) Fear of torture or ill-treatment New concern: administrative detention

EGYPT Sayida Muhammad Gad al-Rab (f), aged 28

The whereabouts of Sayida Muhammad Gad al-Rab remained unknown for more than seven weeks. On 7 September, her lawyer was allowed for the first time to visit her in detention. Following her arrest on 14 July, the wife of a political detainee was reportedly held for several weeks in incommunicado detention at the headquarters of the State Security Intelligence (SSI) at Lazoghly Square in Cairo. She was subsequently transferred to Qanatir Women Prison where she remains to be held in administrative detention under emergency legislation.

Amnesty International has so far received no information about her treatment in detention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Torture of political detainees is common in Egypt, in SSI branches, police stations and occasionally prisons. Relatives of political prisoners have been victims of human rights violations, including detention without charge and torture, solely by reason of their family relationship.

Several thousand political detainees remain in administrative detention under Article 3 of the Emergency Law despite having been issued release orders by the courts. Administrative detention is ordered by the executive branch of a government without a judicial warrant and without the filing of any criminal charges. Anyone held in administrative detention under Article 3 has certain rights of appeal, but these are complex and open to abuse.

Thanks to all who sent appeals. Amnesty International will continue to monitor the case of Sayida Muhammad Gad al-Rab closely. If possible, please send one final round of appeals, in English, Arabic or your own language:

- calling for Sayida Muhammad Gad al-Rab to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence or immediately released;
- calling to identify those responsible for her incommunicado detention and to take necessary measures to prevent this practice in future;
- calling to end the use of administrative detention based on emergency legislation.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Mohammad Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
'Abedine Palace, Cairo, Egypt
Telegram: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt
E-mail: webmaster@presidency.gov.eg
Fax: + 202 390 1998
Telex: 93794 WAZRA UN
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency General Habib al-Adeli
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior

Al-Sheikh Rihan Street
Bab al-Louk, Cairo, Egypt
Telegram:Minister Interior, Cairo, Egypt
E-mail:moi@idsc.gov.eg
Fax: + 202 579 2031
Salutation:Dear Minister

His Excellency Mr Faruq Sayf al-Nasr
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Midan Lazoghly, Cairo, Egypt
Telegrams:Minister Sayf al-Nasr, Cairo, Egypt
E-mail: moheb@idsc.gov.eg
Fax:+202 795 8103
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Public Prosecutor
Counsellor Maher 'Abd al-Wahid
Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali
Ramses Street, Cairo, Egypt
Fax:+ 202 577 4716

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 22 October 2002.