

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/30/97

4 June 1997

Further information (1) on EXTRA 06/97 (MDE 12/05/97, 20 January 1997) - Death Penalty

**EGYPT Yasser Fathi Mohammad 'Abd al-Mon'im Fawwaz  
'Arfan Mohammad Hassib al-Kholi  
'Ali Mohammad Ahmad Farhan  
Yasser 'Abbas Sulayman**

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Amnesty International is concerned that the death sentences handed down by the Supreme Military Court in Heikstep, east of Cairo, on 19 January 1997 on Yasser Fathi Mohammad 'Abd al-Mon'im Fawwaz, 'Arfan Mohammad Hassib al-Kholi, 'Ali Mohammad Ahmad Farhan and Yasser 'Abbas Sulayman were ratified by Prime Minister Kamal al-Ganzoury on 2 June 1997. Their sentences were earlier ratified by the *Mufti*, Egypt's highest religious authority. 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 four men were sentenced to death in a case involving 19 alleged members of the armed Islamist group *al-Gama'a al-Islamiya* (Islamic Group). Charges against the defendants included the planting of bombs in two cinemas in the Helwan district of Cairo in December 1993, the killing of a State Security Investigations Department (SSI) officer and the planned assassination of the head of the Military Prosecution.

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

- expressing concern that the death sentences handed down on Yasser Fathi Mohammad 'Abd al-Mon'im Fawwaz, 'Arfan Mohammad Hassib al-Kholi, 'Ali Mohammad Ahmad Farhan and Yasser 'Abbas Sulayman have now been ratified, and that they may therefore be at imminent risk of execution;
- acknowledging the seriousness of the crimes for which the four 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:**

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Ms Nayla Gabr  
The Human Rights Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt  
**Faxes: +202 574 9808**

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 2 July 1997.