



PUBLIC

AI Index: MD

UA 172/98 Health Concern/ill-treatment/Possible prisoner of

EGYPT' Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im, freelance journalist, aged 33

Amnesty International has just learned that 'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im's already grave health condition has deteriorated seriously since he began a hunger strike on 10 May 1998, in protest against his almost five-year illegal detention in one of Egypt's most notorious prisons. He is reportedly not receiving medical treatment.

'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im, who is married with a five-year-old child, has recently suffered from ill-health, including kidney problems and asthma, as a result of the appalling prison conditions in al-Wadi al-Gadid prison. When his wife and sister visited him on 2 June he had to be carried by two prison guards to the visiting area. He could not speak or move. Despite having been beaten up several times he reportedly refuses to stop his hunger strike.

When his wife brought their only child, whom the father has never seen, to visit on a previous occasion, the prison guards turned them away without allowing them to see 'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im.

Before he went on hunger strike 'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im's family brought him some medicine. The prison guards insisted that it be handed to them and said they would give it to him after the visit. During the family's next visit he told them he never got the medicine.

'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im was arrested on 21 February 1993 when officers from the State Security Investigations Department (SSI) raided his house and confiscated some of his belongings, including a computer. He was taken to the Giza branch of the SSI where he was reportedly tortured for one day, and then transferred to Abu Za'abal Prison.

He appeared before a military court in the case known as *Talai' al-Fatah* (Vanguards of the Conquest) between August and October 1993. The Supreme Military Court in Cairo acquitted him and dozens of others on 30 October 1993. However, instead of being released he was given a new detention order the following day and taken back to prison. He was held in the High Security Prison in Tora until early 1995 when he was transferred to al-Wadi al-Gadid Prison in the desert, south-west of Cairo.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im's case has previously been highlighted in Amnesty International reports entitled "Egypt: Human Rights defenders under threat", AI Index MDE 12/15/94, September 1994; "Egypt - Military trials of civilians: a catalogue of human rights violations", AI Index: MDE 12/16/93 October 1993, as well in the Annual Reports of 1995 and 1996 (Egypt entries).

Thousands of sympathizers, members and suspected members of unauthorized Islamist groups, including a number of lawyers, have been administratively detained without charge or trial, some for as long as eight years, under Article 3 of Egypt's Emergency Law. Hundreds more who have been tried by Military and

(Emergency) Supreme State Security courts and acquitted have been issued with new detention orders instead of being released and continue to be held illegally. Egypt's state of emergency has been in force continuously since 1981.

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

- urging that 'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im be given immediate access to specialist medical care because of his serious health deterioration;
- urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released since he was acquitted by a military court in October 1993 and has been illegally detained for almost five years.

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
Faxes: + 202 579 2031
Salutation: Dear Minister

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

Mr Raga' al-'Arabi
Public Prosecutor
Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali
Ramses Street, Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: +202 77 4716

COPIES TO:

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

General Nabil Sayyam
Director of Prisons
Maslahat al-Sugun
Al-Gala' Street, Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: +202 574 5561

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 21 July 1998.