

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/38/97

1 July 1997

Further information (3) on EXTRA 51/96 (MDE 12/09/96, 3 April 1996) and follow-up MDE 12/12/96, 10 May 1996 and MDE 12/28/97, 3 June 1997 - Death Penalty

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

On 28 June 1997 the three men named above were executed. They had been sentenced to death by the Supreme State Security Court on 2 April 1996 in a case involving 29 alleged members of the banned Islamist group al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya. Five of the other defendants were sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour, nine to 15 years' imprisonment with hard labour and five to between three and ten years' imprisonment. Seven of the defendants were acquitted.

The three men sentenced to death were charged with murdering three policemen and injuring others in the southern Egyptian town of Aswan in 1993. On 5 May 1996 their sentences were approved by the Mufti, the highest religious authority in Egypt. Their sentences were ratified by the Prime Minister, Kamal al-Ganzoury, on 2 June 1997.

This brings the number of executions in Egypt in 1997 to 11.

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

- expressing grave concern at the three executions carried out on 28 June 1997;
- urging that the President use his constitutional powers to commute all other pending death sentences;
- expressing concern at the upsurge in the use of the death penalty in Egypt and reiterating opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the most extreme form of cruel and inhuman punishment;
- 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
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Ms Nayla Gabr
The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt
Fax:+ 20 2 574 9808

Dr Fathi Sorour
Speaker

2

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 29 July 1997.