

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 12/013/2003

26 March 2003

Further Information on UA 84/03 (MDE 12/022/2003, 24 March 2003) - Fear of torture or ill-treatment/health concerns

EGYPT **Manal Ahmad Mustafa Khalid (f), aged 31, assistant film director**
Ziyad 'Abd al-Hamid al-'Uleimi (m), aged 23, lawyer

New names: **Muhammad Muhammad Zaki (m)**
Muhammad Ibrahim al-Nafrawi (m)
Nivin Ahmad Samir (f)
A.B.A. (f) aged 16
Mahmud 'Ali Mahmud (m)
Hamada Ghazi al-'Irq (m)
Gamal 'Abd al-'Aziz(m), lawyer
Yassir Farrag (m), lawyer
'Issam Fadl (m)
Ahmad 'Abd al-Salam (m)
Scores of other anti-war demonstrators including at least 2 children

Amnesty International has received information that at least three children detained during anti-war demonstrations on 20 and 21 March are still being held. The children were initially held together with adults at al-Darassa Central Security Camp and in police custody. They are now believed to be held with adults in various prisons in or near the capital Cairo.

On 25 March, Manal Ahmad Mustafa Khalid and Ziyad 'Abd al-Hamid al-'Uleimi together with the ten detained anti-war demonstrators named above, were brought before a renewal judge at the Court of Misdemeanours in the al-Azbekiya district of Cairo. The judge extended their detention for a further seven days.

The detainees reported that they had been tortured and ill-treated whilst being held at al-Khalifa Police Station in Cairo. Gamal 'Abd al-'Aziz reported that his legs were tied and that he was beaten with a stick on his back, neck, and arm until the stick broke. He fears that his arm may be broken, but his request to see a doctor has been denied. He has also stated that other detainees were beaten with a stick and whipped with a belt.

Ziyad 'Abd al-Hamid al-'Uleimi, who was beaten by security forces when he was detained at the Egyptian Bar Association in Cairo on 21 March, has recently reported that he was seen by a prison doctor who confirmed that his arm was fractured.

Manal Ahmad Mustafa Khalid has not received appropriate medical care for an eye injury sustained at the time of her detention on 21 March. She has reported that she, Nivin Ahmad Samir and a 16-year-old girl were beaten at al-Khalifa Police Station by two male police officers in the presence of a female guard. The three were also threatened with rape.

BACKGROUND

On 20 and 21 March 2003 hundreds of people were detained during anti-war demonstrations in Egypt. Many were injured by security personnel, who used water cannons and clubs against the protestors. While most of

those detained have been released, at least 68 people, including two members of Parliament, have been issued with detention orders of up to 15 days. They have reportedly been accused of various offences, including participating in illegal gatherings and threatening public security. Some have also been accused of demolishing state property.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or English or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that anti-war demonstrators have been beaten and whipped in police custody and that security forces used excessive force when detaining demonstrators;
- calling for the detained children to be treated in accordance with international standards for the protection of juvenile detainees, which include their separation from adult detainees;
- calling for Manal Ahmad Mustafa Khalid, Ziyad 'Abd al-Hamid al-'Uleimi, Gamal 'Abd al-Aziz and others to be granted immediate access to medical treatment appropriate to their injuries;
- urging the authorities to ensure that the detainees have access to their relatives and lawyers;
- calling on the authorities to provide a guarantee that detainees will not be tortured or ill-treated in detention;
- calling for an immediate and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture or ill-treatment, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee that no one should be held in custody or charged solely on the basis of exercising his or her right to freedom of expression.

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 of 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 of Justice, Cairo, Egypt
E-mail: moheb@idsc.gov.eg
Fax: + 202 795 8103
Salutation: Dear Minister

Counsellor Maher 'Abd al-Wahid
Public Prosecutor
Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali
Ramses Street, Cairo, Egypt

Telegrams: Public Prosecutor, Cairo, Egypt
Fax: + 202 577 4716
Salutation: Dear Public Prosecutor

COPIES 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 7 May 2003.