

**PUBLIC**

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**Fear of torture or ill-treatment/ Incommunicado detention**

**16 April 2003**

**EGYPT**

**Mahmud Hassan Hassan (m)  
Ramiz Gihad (m)  
Ibrahim al-Sahari (m), journalist  
Wa'el Tawfiq (m)**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of four anti war activists who were detained between 12 and 13 April in the capital Cairo. Their exact whereabouts are unconfirmed, but they are reportedly being held incommunicado at the State Security Intelligence (SSI) headquarters at Lazoghly Square, where all four were reportedly subjected to torture or ill-treatment.

Mahmud Hassan Hassan was detained at an anti-war demonstration in front of the Egyptian Journalists' Union in the centre of Cairo on 12 April. Ramiz Gihad was detained at a nearby café on the same day. Both are believed to be held incommunicado at the SSI headquarters at Lazoghly Square, following the testimony of a released detainee who was held with them. Mahmud Hassan Tawfiq and Ramiz Gihad were reportedly severely beaten at the SSI headquarters. Ramiz Gihad was reportedly also subjected to electric shocks.

Ibrahim al-Sahari, a journalist and anti-war activist, was detained on 13 April at his home in Cairo by security officers who did not produce a warrant of arrest. He was reportedly taken to the SSI headquarters at Lazoghly Square, where he has allegedly been beaten. In February, Ibrahim al-Sahari was previously detained at the SSI headquarters in Cairo, during which time he was reportedly ill-treated.

Anti-war activist, Wa'el Tawfiq was reportedly detained in Cairo on 13 April. He is also reportedly held at the SSI headquarters, where he was allegedly beaten. He was previously detained in January 2002 during the Cairo International Book Fair. He was taken to the SSI headquarters, where he was allegedly tortured. A medical examination conducted by experts from the Cairo based Nadim Centre for the Management and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence found evidence consistent with his torture allegations.

## **BACKGROUND**

Since 20 March 2003, hundreds of anti-war activists have been detained in Egypt. Several detainees were reportedly tortured or ill-treated whilst held in detention, including at State Security Intelligence (SSI) branches. While most of the detainees have been released, several continue to be held in detention.

Torture of political detainees is common in Egypt, in SSI branches, police stations and occasionally prisons. The most common methods of torture reported are: electric shocks, beatings, suspension by the wrists or ankles, burning with cigarettes, and various forms of psychological torture, including death threats and threats of rape or sexual abuse of the detainee or their female relatives.

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

- expressing concern that Mahmud Hassan Hassan, Ramiz Gihad, Ibrahim al-Sahari and Wa'el Tawfiq are reportedly held in incommunicado detention;
- urging the authorities to reveal exactly where they are being held, and give them access to lawyers, relatives and any medical attention they may require;
- expressing concern at reports that anti-war activists, including Mahmud Hassan Hassan, Ramiz Gihad, Ibrahim al-Sahari and Wa'el Tawfiq were reportedly tortured or ill-treated in State Security Intelligence (SSI) 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 provide a guarantee that detainees will not be tortured or ill-treated in detention;
- 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 Riham 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 28 May 2003.