

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/32/97

11 June 1997

Further information on UA 130/97 (MDE 12/21/97, 2 May 1997) and follow-up (MDE 12/22/97, 7 May 1997) - Prisoner of conscience

EGYPTDr Ahmad al-Ahwany, university professor

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Amnesty International has received information that prisoner of conscience Dr Ahmad al-Ahwany was released on bail on 21 May 1997.

Dr Ahmad al-Ahwany had been arrested on 24 April 1997 and continuously detained in Istiqbal Tora Prison. He had reportedly been accused of planning to distribute documents that would allegedly damage public interests and destabilize public order. However, it is believed that the reason for his arrest and detention was that he was found to be in possession of a bulletin critical of a new agricultural land law that permits landowners to evict tenants after a grace period.

No further action is required from the UA Network at present. Thank you to all those who sent appeals.