

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on 286/93 (MDE 12/12/93, 24 August 1993) - and follow-up
: MDE 12/13/93, 15 September 1993 - Death Penalty

Egypt: Ramadhan Mostafa Mohammad HASSAN

'Ali Fayed MAYHUB

Sayyid 'ABD AL-RAZIQ

Hisham Mohammad MAS'UD (sentenced in absentia)

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the execution on 3 November 1993 of Ramadhan Mostafa Mohammad Hassan, 'Ali Fayed Mayhub and Sayyid 'Abd Al-Raziq, who had been held in prison. All the above were tried and sentenced to death by the Supreme Military Court on 21 August 1993. They had been charged with membership of an illegal organization "Al-Shawqiyin" and committing murders. Hisham Mohammad Mas'ud was sentenced in absentia and there is no further information regarding his whereabouts.

All four were sentenced to death by a military court, even though they are civilians. The death sentences were subject to ratification by the President of the Republic, and then review by the Military Appeals' Bureau, also headed by the President of the Republic. Amnesty International believes these to be summary or arbitrary executions since the trial and appeal procedures fell short of international standards for fair trial, as guaranteed by Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Egypt is a state party. This article guarantees that everyone who is convicted shall have the right to their conviction and sentence being reviewed by a higher tribunal. The United Nations' Economic and Social Council has urged that these rights be respected in all cases involving the death penalty.

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

- expressing grave concern at these executions;
- urging that civilians should not be tried by military courts and calling for any new cases to be tried in civilian courts which comply with international standards to which Egypt is a state party (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights);
- expressing concern at the sudden upsurge in the use of the death penalty in Egypt (39 death sentences have been passed by military courts since December 1992 and 17 executions have now taken place), and explaining Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the most extreme form of cruel and inhuman punishment;
- stating that in Amnesty International's view the death penalty is not an effective deterrent to violent crime;
- 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
Muhammad Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
'Abedine Palace
Cairo, Egypt
Telegram: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt
Telexes: 93794 WAZRA UN
Faxes: +202 260 5417
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil
Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: +202 723173

Dr Fathi Sorour
Speaker
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 9 December 1993.