

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 12/003/2006

06 January 2006

Further Information on UA 02/06 (MDE 12/001/2006, 4 January 2006) - Fear of forcible return/fear of torture and ill-treatment

EGYPT Up to 650 Sudanese nationals

The Egyptian authorities announced on 4 January that they will be delaying the deportation of the Sudanese nationals for 72 hours (up to the morning of 8 January), and have allowed the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) access to them for this period. The UNHCR is visiting the three detention centres where they are held in order to identify those who may be refugees or asylum-seekers and therefore, in accordance with international law, should not be deported.

There are serious concerns that 72 hours may not be long enough for the UNHCR to identify all those who are refugees or asylum-seekers. No one should be deported except as a result of a decision reached in accordance with law, with access to appeal procedures. It is feared that the Egyptian authorities may simply expel the entire group of Sudanese nationals at the end of the 72 hour period.

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

- welcoming the Egyptian authorities' decision to delay the deportation of the 650 Sudanese nationals, but expressing concern that the 72-hour period they have allowed may not be long enough for the UNHCR to identify all those who may be entitled to refugee status, and calling on the authorities to give the UNHCR as much time as it needs to carry out its assessment;
- calling on the Egyptian authorities to immediately release all those identified by the UNHCR as refugees or asylum-seekers, or otherwise of concern to the UNHCR, unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that those Sudanese nationals not identified as refugees or asylum-seekers, or otherwise of concern to the UNHCR, are only expelled on the basis of a decision reached in accordance with law, in compliance with Egypt's obligations under Article 13 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

APPEALS TO:

H.E. Muhammad Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
'Abedine Palace, Cairo, EGYPT
Fax: +20 2 390 1998
E-mail: webmaster@presidency.gov.eg
Salutation: Your Excellency

General Habib Ibrahim El Adly
Minister of the Interior, Ministry of the Interior
Al-Sheikh Rihan Street, Bab al-Louk, Cairo, EGYPT
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Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

National Council for Human Rights

1113, Corniche al-Nil

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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 17 February 2006.