

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 12/12/91
Distr: UA/SC

26 February 1991

Further information on UA 44/91 (MDE 12/05/91, 11 February 1991, and follow-up MDE 12/11/91, 20 February) - Fear of Torture

Egypt: Dr Mohammed MANDOUR
Dr 'Emad 'ATREES

Amnesty International has learned that Dr Mohammed Mandour was released on 23 February 1991. He had been arrested in the early hours of 8 February, and was held first at the State Security Intelligence Police Directorate (SSIP) in Lazoghly, Cairo, then at Abu Za'bal Prison. While held by the SSIP he was reportedly stripped and subjected to suspension, beating and electric shocks.

Following his release, Amnesty International has received the following message of thanks from Dr Mandour:

"Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I would like to express my deep gratitude for your efforts which resulted in my release Saturday evening February 23 1991, by decision of the Minister of the Interior, annulling the administrative order against me.

I should like to inform you that I was released without having had any formal charges made against me, nor was I questioned, throughout my two weeks of detention, by prosecution officials.

I would also like to relate to you the effect your efforts had upon my morale when I learned of them upon my transfer to Abu Zaabal Prison and my meeting with Egyptian Organization for Human Rights lawyers. I felt that I was no longer alone, and the weight of insults, humiliation and physical abuse I had suffered, became much lighter.

It is difficult to find appropriate words to express my gratitude. Your efforts have strengthened my faith in our common movement for human rights, and have increased my confidence that our efforts are worthwhile.

Now that I, myself, have passed through this bitter experience, I pledge to redouble my efforts in the struggle for human rights, and to stand against any violation of human body and of the human dignity."

No further action is required on his behalf.

However, Dr 'Emad 'Atrees remains in prison at Abu Za'bal Prison, following his detention also on Friday 8 February. Please continue appeals on his behalf.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- welcoming Dr Mandour's release but expressing continued concern at the detention of Dr 'Emad 'Atrees, and seeking assurances that he is being humanely treated;
- urging his immediate and unconditional release unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

General Mohammad Abdel-Halim Moussa
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Al Sheikh Rihan Street
Bab Al Louq
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

Telexes: 21361 MOICM UN
Faxes: + 355 7792

Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Midan At-Tahrir
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

Telexes: 21712 KHARG UN, 23392 KHARG UN or 93862 KHARG UN

COPIES TO:

The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR)
17 Maidan Aswan
el - Mohandesine
Cairo, Egypt

and to diplomatic representatives of Egypt in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 April 1991.