

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/12/96

10 May 1996

Further information on EXTRA 51/96 (MDE 12/09/96, 3 April 1996) - Death Penalty

EGYPT Mohammad 'Abd al-Ra'uf Mahmoud, aged 34

Ayman Kamal Mohammad, aged 21

'Abd al-Nasser Abu Kharouf, aged 25

On 5 May 1996, the death sentences passed on the three men named above were reportedly approved by the Mufti, the highest religious authority in the country. They will now be passed on to President Hosni Mubarak or his nominee for ratification. Amnesty International fears that the executions may be imminent.

Mohammad 'Abd al-Ra'uf Mahmoud, Ayman Kamal Mohammad and 'Abd al-Nasser Abu Kharouf were sentenced to death on 2 April 1996 by the (Emergency) Supreme State Security Court in Cairo in a case involving 29 alleged members of the banned Islamist armed group *al-Gama'a al-Islamiya* (Islamic Group). On 5 May 1996 the (Emergency) Supreme State Security Court sentenced five other defendants in the case to life imprisonment with hard labour, nine to 15 years' imprisonment with hard labour and five to between three and 10 years' imprisonment. Seven were acquitted.

The three men sentenced to death were charged with murdering three policemen and injuring others in the southern Egyptian town of Aswan in 1993. Other charges against them and other defendants included membership of a banned organization, possession of weapons and threatening the peace. There is no right to appeal sentences issued by (Emergency) Supreme State Security Courts.

This falls far short of international standards for fair trial, as guaranteed by Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Egypt in 1982.

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

- expressing concern that the three men named above are at imminent risk of execution;
- urging that President Hosni Mubarak use his constitutional powers to commute the three death sentences when they are submitted to him for ratification, and that he commute all other pending death sentences;
- expressing concern at the extensive use of the death penalty in Egypt, (so far this year, Amnesty International has recorded 25 death sentences passed by criminal, military and (Emergency) Supreme State Security Courts, and four people sentenced in previous years have been executed), and reiterating opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the most extreme form of cruel and inhuman punishment;
- 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 Mohammad Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
'Abedine Palace
Cairo, Egypt

Telegrams: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt

Telexes: 93794 WAZRA UN
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

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The Human Rights Department
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Cairo, Egypt
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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 10 June 1996.