

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 12/012/2002

UA 94/02

Death pen

EGYPTNargas Sidqi Ahmad Ibrahim (f) - 21 years old
Ayman 'Ali Isma'il Zahran (m) - 24 years old

Nargas Sidqi Ahmad Ibrahim and her husband Ayman 'Ali Isma'il Zahran were sentenced to death by hanging on 21 March. They were convicted of murder by Cairo Criminal Court.

Their sentence was pronounced after having been considered by the Mufti, the highest religious authority in Egypt, who is routinely consulted before the death penalty is handed down. Final verdicts are sent to the President or his nominee, who has the right to grant a pardon or reduce the sentence. In the absence of this, those sentenced to death are at imminent risk of execution.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Egyptian courts have increased their use of the death penalty in the last few years, despite the world trend towards abolition. At least 67 people, including five women, were sentenced to death in 2001. The death penalty is applied for criminal offences such as drug use or trafficking, murder and offences related to "terrorism".

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

- acknowledging the seriousness of the crime for which Nargas Sidqi Ahmad Ibrahim and Ayman 'Ali Isma'il Zahran have been convicted;
- expressing your opposition to the death penalty in all cases, as a violation of the right to life as set out in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which says that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person";
- pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments, and that it is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- urging the President to use his constitutional powers to grant clemency and commute this and all other outstanding death sentences;
- drawing attention to the world trend towards abolishing or reducing 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
Telex: 93794 WAZRA UN
Fax: + 202 390 1998
e-mail: webmaster@presidency.gov.eg
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Mr Hussein Dharar
The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt
Fax: + 202 574 9533

Dr Fathi Sorour

2

Speaker
The People's Assembly
Magles al-Sha'ab Street, Cairo, Egypt
Fax: + 202 574 9175

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 May 2002.