

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**Fear of torture**

**27 February 1991**

**EGYPT**

**Hamdain Sabahi**

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Hamdain Sabahi, a journalist and leading member of the Arab Socialist Nasserist Party, was arrested during the afternoon of 27 February, and, according to reports received by Amnesty International, was taken to the State Security Intelligence Police Directorate in Lazoghly, Cairo. There are fears that he may be subjected to torture or ill-treatment.

Hamdain Sabahi was reportedly arrested and detained by order of the Minister of Interior under state of emergency legislation. His arrest appears to be the latest in a series of arrests of medical doctors, students and journalists, apparently for their stated opposition to the Gulf War, or for their Palestinian connections. Amnesty International believes that most have been held for the non-violent expression of their conscientiously held beliefs. Hamdain Sabahi had apparently expressed his opposition to the war at a student meeting on this subject at Cairo University on 24 February.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the reported arrest of Hamdain Sabahi, and urging his immediate and unconditional release if he is being held for the non-violent exercise of his human rights;
- seeking assurances that he is being humanely treated and has prompt access to a lawyer of his own choice;
- seeking information about the reasons for his arrest.

**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

**Telegrams: Minister Interior, Cairo, Egypt**

**Telexes: 21361 MOICM UN**

**Faxes: + 20 2 355 7792**

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

Arab Republic of Egypt

**Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister, Cairo, Egypt**

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

**Faxes: + 20 2 723 173**

**COPIES TO:** Diplomatic representatives of Egypt in your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or the Section Office if sending appeals after 10 April 1991.