

PUBLIC

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Death pen

**EGYPT**Hanan Mamduh al-Sharbani (f), 21  
**Ayman Mustafa Lasheen, 28, policeman**

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Policeman Ayman Mustafa Lasheen and Hanan Mamduh al-Sharbani were sentenced to death on 23 April, for the murder of Hanan Mamduh al-Sharbani's husband in November 1998.

Their sentences, handed down by the Zagaziq Criminal Court, will now be approved by the *Mufti*, the highest religious authority in Egypt, before they go to the president for ratification.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The death penalty has been applied much more widely in Egypt in the last few years. In 1999 at least 108 people were sentenced to death, and at least 16 were executed. So far this year, at least 29 people have been sentenced to death and nine executed. The death penalty is applied for criminal offences such as drug use or trafficking, murder and offences related to "terrorism".

Death sentences passed by criminal and (Emergency) Supreme State Security courts are submitted to the *Mufti* for approval as a routine measure, where the majority are approved. They are then passed to the President of the Republic or his nominee for ratification. Appeals against final verdicts by criminal courts can be submitted to the Court of Cassation, but only when procedural irregularities in the trial can be proved.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telexes/faxes/e-mails/express/airmail letters in Arabic, English, French or your own language:**

***PLEASE PRIORITIZE APPEALS: Until 25 May, send appeals to the Mufti only. After 25 May, please address your appeals to the President of the Republic.***

- acknowledging the seriousness of the crime of which Hanan Mamduh al-Sharbani and Ayman Mustafa Lasheen were convicted, but explaining your opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life (as stated in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person"), pointing out that it has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect, and is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- urging the *Mufti* not to ratify these death sentences;
- urging the President to use his constitutional powers to grant clemency and commute these and all other pending 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:**

M. Farid Nasr Wassel  
Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Wakf Ministry  
Sabri Abou Alam Street  
Bab al-Louk, Cairo, Egypt  
**Faxes: + 202 390 0362**  
**E-mails: mawkaf@idscl.gov.eg**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

His Excellency Mohammad Hosni Mubarak  
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
'Abedine Palace, Cairo, Egypt

**Telexes:** 93794 WAZRA UN  
**Faxes:** + 202 390 1998  
**e-mails:** webmaster@presidency.gov.eg  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

**COPIES TO:**

Mr Hani Khalaf  
The Human Rights Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt  
**Faxes:** + 202 574 9533

Dr Fathi Sorour  
Speaker  
The People's Assembly  
Magles al-Sha'ab Street, Cairo, Egypt  
**Faxes:** + 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 14 June 2000.