

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 12/014/2002

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Further information on UA 22/02 (MDE 12/004/2002, 24 January 2002) and follow-up (MDE 12/011/2002, 27 March 2002) - Risk of torture/ill-treatment New concern: Prisoners of conscience

**EGYPT** Five men detained in connection with their actual or perceived sexual orientation

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On 13 April, the five men sentenced in March to the maximum three years' imprisonment for "habitual debauchery" were acquitted on appeal. The men, who had been in detention since mid-January were released some two days later.

Their release follows a strong international campaign - by a wide range of individuals and organisations, including Amnesty International - on behalf of these men and others imprisoned in Egypt purely for their actual or perceived sexual orientation.

However, tens of men remain imprisoned solely on account of their actual or perceived sexual orientation. Last month a three-year prison sentence against four men charged with "habitual debauchery" was upheld on appeal by a Cairo district court.

**No further action is required. Thank you to all those who sent appeals.**