

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 12/20/00

20 June 2000

Further information on UA 120/00 (MDE 12/15/00, 16 May 2000) - Death Penalty

EGYPT 'Afaf Abu al-Magd 'Uthman (f)

'Afaf Abu al-Magd 'Uthman's death sentence was confirmed by the Giza Criminal Court on 14 June. Her sentence has already been approved by the *Mufti*, the highest Muslim authority in Egypt, and she could be executed at any time. Her case will now be sent to the president for ratification.

'Afaf was sentenced to death in May for the killing of a young girl during a robbery. Her last hope now is a presidential pardon.

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

- acknowledging the right and duty of states to bring to justice those responsible for violent crimes, but explaining your opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the most extreme form of cruel and inhuman punishment, stressing that there is no evidence that it is an effective deterrent to such crimes;
- urging the president to use his constitutional powers to grant clemency to 'Afaf Abu al-Magd 'Uthman, and to commute all other pending death sentences;
- expressing concern at the continuing use of the death penalty in Egypt and drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, in accordance with Article 6 of the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Egypt is a state party.

APPEALS TO:

President

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

Telegrams: President, Cairo, Egypt

Telexes: 93794 WAZRA UN

Faxes: + 202 390 1998

E-mails: webmaster@presidency.gov.eg

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Official liaising with human rights groups

Mr Hani Khalaf
The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt

Faxes: + 202 574 9533

Speaker of the Egyptian parliament

Dr Fathi Sorour
Speaker
The People's Assembly
Magles al-Sha'ab Street, Cairo, Egypt

Faxes: + 202 574 9175

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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 1 August 2000.