

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/22/97

7 May 1997

Further information (1) on UA 130/97 (MDE 12/21/97, 2 May 1997) - Prisoner of conscience

EGYPT Dr Ahmad al-Ahwany, university professor

Amnesty International has received information that on 6 May 1997 the Public Prosecutor's Office ordered that Dr Ahmad al-Ahwany remain in detention for a further 15 days pending the outcome of continuing investigations.

Dr Ahmad al-Ahwany was arrested on 24 April 1997 and reportedly accused of planning to distribute documents that would allegedly damage public interests and destabilize public order. It is believed that the real reason for his arrest and continuing detention is that he was found to be in possession of a bulletin critical of a new agricultural land law that permits landowners to evict tenants after a grace period. He has reportedly been detained in Istiqbal Tora Prison since his arrest.

Amnesty International considers Dr Ahmad al-Ahwany to be a prisoner of conscience being held solely for the non-violent expression of his beliefs, and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

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

- expressing concern at the continuing detention of Dr Ahmad al-Ahwany;
- reiterating calls that he be immediately and unconditionally released as a prisoner of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Mohammad Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
'Abedine Palace, Cairo, Egypt
Telegrams: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt
Telexes: 93794 WAZRA UN
Faxes: +202 391 0042
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Ms Nayla Gabr
The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: +202 574 9667

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

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 17 June 1997.