EXTERNAL AI Index: MDE 12/24/96

10 September 1996

Further information (1) on UA 207/96 (MDE 12/20/96, 21 August 1996) - Fear of Torture/Death in Custody

EGYPT Sayyid 'Abbas Sayyid Taha Mansour Sa'id Taghour Hisham Mohammad 'Abdu 'Abd al-Hamid Mahmoud Qutb Khalil

Amnesty International is extremely alarmed at information it has recently received that, in addition to the five individuals named above, at least 52 other individuals are reportedly being held in the State Security Investigations Department (SSI) headquarters in Lazoghly Square, Cairo, where they have allegedly been subjected to torture. Methods of torture allegedly used against them include beatings, electric shocks, suspension in contorted positions and the extinguishing of cigarettes on their bodies.

All of those detained are suspected members or sympathizers of al-Talai' al-Fatah (the Vanguard of the Conquest) – a splinter group of the banned Islamist group al-Gihad (Holy Struggle). Among them are the 43 suspected members of the group who were arrested in Cairo and four other governorates in the first half of July 1996. They have reportedly been accused of "possession of large quantities of dynamite and preparing to overthrow the regime".

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

- expressing concern at the alleged torture of at least 57 detainees in the SSI headquarters in Cairo, which has reportedly already led to the death of Ahmad Mohammad 'Abd al-'Adhim Higazi;
- seeking assurances that the 57 detainees and others are treated humanely in accordance with international standards and, in particular, that they have access to their lawyers, families and medical care;
- calling for an immediate, thorough and independent investigation into the death of Ahmad Mohammad 'Abd al-'Adhim Higazi and the reported torture of at least 57 others: the methods and conclusion of these investigations should be made public within reasonable time, and any member of the security forces implicated in torture and ill-treatment of detainees should be brought to justice.

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 Salutation: Your Excellency

General Hassan al-Alfy Minister of the Interior Ministry of the Interior Al-Sheikh Rihan Street Bab al-Louk Cairo, Egypt Telexes: 21361 MOICM

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Cairo, Egypt

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Al-Mustashar Ahmad Sayyid Ahmad
Assistant Public Prosecutor and
Head of the Human Rights Department
The Public Prosecutors Office
Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali
Ramses Street, Cairo, Egypt

Ms Nayla Gabr

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

Fax: +202 574 7839

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 22 Ocotber 1996.

FOR INFORMATION - full list of detainees. May also be distributed with the UA.

Sayyid 'Abbas Sayyid Sabar Tariq Mohammad Mursi Wahba Taha Mansour Hilmi 'Abd al-Hamid Mahmoud Qutb Khalil Mohammad Sayyid 'Abd al-Magid Mohammad Mohammad 'Ali Radwan Ahmad 'Abd al-Hamid Harbi Ahmad Salah Mohammad Fadhali Mohammad Farouq Mohammad Sha'lan 'Eid 'Abd al-Mon'im Metwali Abu Sari'a Mohammad al-Sayyid Ibrahim Zayyid Ahmad Mohammad al-Maghawri Isma'il Sharif Zaynhum Ahmad Muntasir Samir Hassan Abu al-Nil Mohammad 'Abbas Sayyid Sabar 'Amr 'Abd al-Rahman 'Ali Mohammad 'Ali Radwan Magdy Zaghloul Shahhata 'Abd al-Mon'im Ahmad Mostafa Mansour Mahmoud Hilmi Mahmoud Gabir Mohammad Higazi Moussa 'Emad Ahmad Abu al-Makarim Mohammad Badawy 'Allam Sa'id Higazi al-Faramawi Ahmad 'Abd al-Hafidh Harb Hamdy Ibrahim al-Sayyid 'Abd al-Basit Sa'id Taghour Hisham Mohammad 'Abdu 'Abd al-Khaliq Waheed Mohammad Qutb Mahmoud al-Sayyid Khalil Mahmoud al-Zibni Ibrahim 'Ali Khatir 'Essam Bahgat Badir Ahmad Sha'ib Ibrahim al-Sissi Mohammad Sami al-Kaylani Fathi 'Ashour Fawzi Mohammad Ghabour Mahmoud Mohammad 'Ali Naf'i Mohammad 'Ali Mohammad 'Amru Mohammad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sarougi Shukri Amin Mahmoud 'Afifi 'Othman Bin 'Afan Mohammad Hamida Mohammad 'Abd al-Raziq al-Tahir Sa'd Mohammad Gharib al-Khuli Mohammad 'Abd al-Fatah 'Abd al-Hadi Ahmad Sayyid Haggag Sha'ban 'Abd al-Ilah al-Sissi Sha'ban 'Adil Rishad 'Abd al-Muttagali Gamal Hosni 'Abd al-Hakim Hasab Allah

'Abd al-Nasr al-Sayyid 'Ali Shahout Mohammad Badr Mahmoud Ghoneim Sayyid al-Gazar