

PUBLIC

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22 May 1998

Further information on EXTRA 61/97 (12/19/97, 30 April 1997) - Death penalty

EGYPTFathiya Salem (f)

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Fathiya Salem could be executed at any time. Her death sentence was upheld by the Court of Cassation on 21 May 1998.

Fathiya Salem was sentenced to death by the Giza Criminal Court on 27 April 1997 after having been found guilty of murder. The sentence was approved by the *Mufti*, Egypt's highest religious authority, on 22 May the same year.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION.**

The death penalty is applied in Egypt for criminal offences such as drug use or trafficking and murder, and for offences related to "terrorism". It has been used extensively in the country in recent years. In 1997 alone Amnesty International recorded 55 death sentences passed by military, criminal and (Emergency) Supreme State Security courts, and 24 executions.

So far in 1998, the organisation has recorded 25 death sentences and 19 executions.

Death sentences issued by criminal and (Emergency) Supreme State Security courts are submitted to the *Mufti* for approval as a routine measure, who usually approves the vast majority of them. They are subsequently passed on to the President of the Republic or his nominee for ratification. Final verdicts by criminal courts can be appealed against before the Court of Cassation, but only when it can be proved that there were procedural irregularities in the trial.

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

- acknowledging the seriousness of the crime for which Fathiya Salem was convicted, but explaining your opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life, 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 President to use his constitutional powers to grant clemency and commute these and all other pending death sentences;
- drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce 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:**

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: + 202 390 1998**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

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The Human Rights Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Speaker

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Magles al-Sha'ab Street, Cairo, Egypt

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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 19 June 1998.