

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 309/91 (MDE 12/24/91, 13 September 1991) - Fear of Torture

EGYPT: Mohammad al-Sayyid al-Sayyid Higazi

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Amnesty International has received reports that Mohammad al-Sayyid al-Sayyid Higazi, a 29-year-old Arabic teacher arrested on 18 August 1991, has been tortured for several weeks at the State Security Intelligence (SSI), Doqqi branch, Cairo, and at the SSI headquarters in Lazoghly. After being detained initially in Doqqi he was reportedly transferred to Tora Istiqbal Prison, but was returned a few days later to the headquarters of the SSI in Lazoghly, where he was allegedly held for two more weeks and tortured. He was then taken back to prison.

Methods of torture are believed to have included electric shocks on sensitive parts of the body and hanging him by his wrists for long periods of time. A representative of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights is reported to have visited Mohammad al-Sayyid al-Sayyid Higazi in prison and observed the marks of torture on his body.

Mohammad al-Sayyid al-Sayyid Higazi is reported to have been questioned only once by officials from the procuracy (niyaba - public prosecutor's office), when he was apparently charged with membership of an illegal organization, al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya (an Islamic group).

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

- expressing grave concern at the reported torture of Mohammad al-Sayyid al-Sayyid Higazi, which is a clear violation of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (ratified by Egypt in 1986);
- seeking urgent clarification of measures taken to investigate this report and bring to justice those responsible;
- urging that he be given immediate and regular access to his family, lawyer and to all necessary medical treatment.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. General Mohammad 'Abdel-Halim Moussa  
Minister of the Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
Al-Sheikh Rihan Street  
Bab al-Louq  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt  
**Telegrams: Minister Interior, Cairo, Egypt**  
**Telexes: 21361 MOICM UN**  
**Faxes: + 20 2 355 7792**

**Dear Minister**

2. Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali  
Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Immigration  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Midan al-Tahrir  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

**Your Excellency**

Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Immigration  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Midan al-Tahrir  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

**Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister, Cairo, Egypt**  
**Telexes: 92220 KHARG UN**  
**Faxes: + 20 2 723 173**

**COPIES TO:** Diplomatic representatives of Egypt in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 December 1991.