

PUBLIC

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Death penalty / Imminent execution

29 May 1998

EGYPT **Mohammad al-Gindi Ramadhan**  
**Mohammad Fathi Raslan**  
**Salah al-Badri**  
**Abu al-Mawaheb Ibrahim**

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On 21 May 1998, the four above-named men were sentenced to death by the Luxor Criminal court. Their sentences have now been passed to the *Mufti*, the highest religious authority in the country, for approval. If the sentences are upheld the men are at risk of imminent execution.

Mohammad al-Gindi Ramadhan, Mohammad Fathi Raslan, Salah al-Badri and Abu al-Mawaheb Ibrahim were found guilty of the murder of a cashier and his friend in September 1997.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The death penalty has been applied extensively in Egypt in recent years including for criminal offenses such as those relating to drugs or murder and for offenses relating to "terrorism". 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 29 death sentences and 21 executions.

Death sentences issued by criminal and (Emergency) Supreme State Security courts are submitted to the *Mufti* for approval as a routine measure. The vast majority are approved. They are subsequently passed 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 Mohammad al-Gindi Ramadhan, Mohammad Fathi Raslan, Salah al-Badri and Abu al-Mawaheb Ibrahim were 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:**

Ms Nayla Gabr  
The Human Rights Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt  
**Faxes: + 202 574 9533**

Dr Fathi Sorour  
Speaker  
The People's Assembly  
Magles al-Sha'ab Street, Cairo, Egypt  
**Faxes: + 202 574 91 75**

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 10 July 1998.