

18 September 2002

**Further information on UA 188/02 (MDE 12/021/2002, 20 June 2002) - Forcible return/fear of torture or ill-treatment****EGYPT/USANabil Ahmad Soliman (m)**

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On 4 September Nabil Ahmad Soliman's retrial began before the Supreme State Security Court in Cairo. This is an exceptional court which denies defendants the right to a full review before a higher tribunal. He is charged with membership of an illegal organization in connection with his alleged affiliation with the armed Islamist group *al-Gihad*.

Nabil Ahmad Soliman is currently detained in Tora Prison, Cairo, where he is thought to have been moved in early August. Between the end of June and beginning of August, Nabil Ahmad Soliman was held at a location unknown to his lawyer and to family members.

He had previously been held in Tora Prison following his forcible return from the USA to Egypt on 12 June. However, he was then held in incommunicado detention for about seven weeks, where it was feared that he was at risk of torture or ill-treatment. Amnesty International has not received information to suggest that he was ill-treated in detention.

The US embassy have sent two delegations to visit Nabil Ahmad Soliman in Tora prison, most recently around 12 August. His lawyer and relatives have now been granted access to visit him.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In Egypt, suspected members of armed Islamist groups are frequently tortured while held in incommunicado detention, in particular at branches of the State Security Intelligence (SSI), but also at police stations and occasionally prisons. The UN Committee Against Torture recommended "that Egypt takes effective measures to prevent torture in police and SSI custody" in May 1999.

**Many thanks to all who took action for Nabil Ahmad Soliman. Amnesty International will continue longer-term campaigning on his behalf. If possible, please send a final round of appeals, in Arabic, English or your own language:**

**To the Egyptian authorities:**

- urging the Egyptian authorities to ensure that Nabil Ahmad Soliman is tried in accordance with international standards of fair trial, and not before the Supreme State Security Court, whose proceedings violate international standards;
- calling on the Egyptian authorities to investigate and identify those responsible for his incommunicado detention and to take necessary measures to prevent the ongoing practice of incommunicado detention, where detainees face a heightened risk of torture or ill-treatment;
- reminding them that prolonged incommunicado detention may facilitate the perpetration of torture and in itself constitute a form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

**To the US authorities:**

- reminding the US authorities of their obligation to closely monitor the welfare of those who are forcibly returned from the USA, including ensuring regular visits to those deprived of their liberty and immediate access for

detainees to legal counsel, medical treatment, and relatives at all stages of their detention;

- calling on the US authorities to investigate the incommunicado detention of Nabil Ahmad Soliman, to make their findings public and to call on the Egyptian authorities to end the practice of incommunicado detention in future;
- urging that they ensure that Nabil Ahmad Soliman receives a fair trial in accordance with international standards for fair trial, and not before the Supreme State Security Court, whose proceedings violate international standards;
- stressing that the forcible return of any person to a country where they are at risk of serious human rights violations is a violation of the USA's obligations under the principles of human rights law.

**APPEALS TO:**

**Egyptian authorities**

His Excellency Mohammad Hosni Mubarak  
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
'Abedine Palace, Cairo, Egypt

**Telegram: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt**

**E-mail: [webmaster@presidency.gov.eg](mailto:webmaster@presidency.gov.eg)**

**Fax: + 202 390 1998**

**Telex: 93794 WAZRA UN**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

His Excellency General Habib al-'Adeli  
Minister of the Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
Al-Sheikh Riham Street  
Bab al-Louk, Cairo, Egypt

**Telegram: Minister Interior, Cairo, Egypt**

**E-mail: [moi@idsc.gov.eg](mailto:moi@idsc.gov.eg)**

**Fax: + 202 579 2031**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of Egypt accredited to your country.

**US authorities**

The Honorable John Ashcroft,  
Attorney General, Department of Justice,  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. Room 440,  
Washington DC 20530-0001, USA

**Telegram: Attorney General, Washington D.C, USA**

**Fax: +1 202 307 6777**

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General**

The Honorable Colin Powell,  
Secretary of State, Office of the Secretary of State,  
2201 C Street, N. W. Washington DC 20520, USA

**Telegram: Secretary of State, Washington D.C, USA**

**Fax: + 1 202 647 2283**

**Salutation: Dear Secretary of State**

**COPIES TO:**

His Excellency C. David Welsh,  
Ambassador of the United States to the Arab Republic of Egypt,  
US Embassy, 5 Latin America Street, Garden City, Cairo, Egypt

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

and diplomatic representatives of the USA accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 October 2002.