

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 07/95 Health Concern/Possible Prisoner of Conscience 11 January 1995

EGYPT 'Adel Hussein (Opposition leader; Journalist)

Amnesty International is seriously concerned at the continued detention of 'Adel Hussein, a journalist and the Secretary General of the Labour Party who may be a prisoner of conscience.

'Adel Hussein reportedly suffers from heart disease and angina. He has apparently been taken from prison to hospital at least twice for check-ups. There are fears for 'Adel Hussein's health, in view of his cardiac problems.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

'Adel Hussein was arrested on 24 December 1994 and spent one day in Misr al-Gadida Police Station where he was allegedly subjected to ill-treatment by being denied medication and a blanket. He was then interrogated by the State Security Procuracy and given a 15-day detention order. He was apparently arrested because of his association with al-Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group).

The State Security Procuracy ordered 'Adel Hussein to be detained because of an envelope containing Islamist militant leaflets and publications he allegedly left under his seat in the airplane he had taken on his return from Paris at the end of October 1994. The charges against him are also said to include contact with Islamist groups in Egypt and abroad and the Islamic National Front in Sudan.

Although 'Adel Hussein denied all the charges pressed against him, the State Security Procuracy extended his detention for 15 more days for further questioning on the alleged anti-government leaflets. He is now believed to be held at Istiqbal Tora Prison where he has access to family, lawyers and has been visited by human rights groups.

In a report issued by Amnesty International on 20 September 1994, the organization detailed its human rights concerns in Egypt and in particular the Egyptian authorities' recent crackdown on lawyers and journalists, many of whom have been targeted for arrest, detention and ill-treatment.

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

- expressing concern at the continued detention of 'Adel Hussein and urging that if he is held solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression, he is a prisoner of conscience and should be immediately and unconditionally released;
- urge that 'Adel Hussein should be humanely treated in conditions which do not endanger his health.

APPEALS TO:

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

Telegram: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt

Telexes: 93794 WAZRA UN

Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency
General Hassan al-Alfy
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Al-Sheikh Rihan Street
Bab al-Louk
Cairo

Telex: 21361 MOICM UN

Faxes: +202 355 7792

His Excellency
Mr Faruq Sayf al-Nasr
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Midan Lazoghly
Cairo

Faxes: +202 355 8103

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

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

Dr Fathi Sorour
Speaker
The People's Assembly
Magles al-Shaab 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 February 1995.