

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/04/98

16 January 1998

Further information on UA 343/97 (MDE 12/60/97, 31 October 1997) - Death Penalty / Legal Concern and new concern: Imminent Execution

**EGYPT Sabir Farahat Abu al-'Ala**  
**Mahmoud Farahat Abu al-'Ala**

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The death sentences passed by the Supreme Military Court in Cairo on 30 October 1997 against the two brothers mentioned above have been confirmed by the Military Appeals Bureau and ratified by the President of the Republic. Their execution is now imminent.

The brothers were charged with carrying out a fire bomb and gun attack on a tourist bus in central Cairo on 18 September 1997. Nine of the passengers, all German tourists, and the Egyptian driver were killed. Six other defendants in the case received sentences of between three and ten years' imprisonment with hard labour on charges of supplying the arms and explosives used in the attack. One defendant was acquitted.

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

- expressing concern that the death sentences passed against the two brothers on 30 October 1997 have been ratified and urging the President to use his constitutional powers to grant clemency and commute these and all other pending death sentences;
- expressing concern that the defendants were tried before a military court and that the trial did not comply with international standards for fair trial including Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Egypt is a state party;
- expressing concern at the continuing extensive use of the death penalty in Egypt and drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, in accordance with Article 6 of the ICCPR, 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

Dr Fathi Sorour  
Speaker  
The People's Assembly  
Magles al-Sha'ab 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 1 March 1998.