

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/05/98

22 January 1998

Further information on UA 324/97 (MDE 12/56/97, 16 October 1997) - Death Penalty / Legal Concern and new concern: imminent execution

EGYPT 'Adel 'Ali Bayyumi
'Adel 'Abd al-Magid (*in absentia*)
Ahmad Ibrahim al-Sayyid al-Naggar (*in absentia*)

The death sentences passed by the Supreme Military Court in Cairo on 15 October 1997 against the three people mentioned above have been confirmed by the Military Appeals Bureau and ratified by President Hosni Mubarak. The execution of 'Adel 'Ali Bayyumi is now imminent.

The three people were among 85 (amended figure) defendants tried in the case known as the "Khan al-Khalili Case". Charges against them included membership of a secret organization, *al-Gihad* (Holy War), with aims to overthrow the government, criminal collusion, possession of weapons and anti-government leaflets, and planning to plant explosives in the Khan al-Khalili market in Cairo. 'Adel 'Abd al-Magid and Ahmad Ibrahim al-Sayyid al-Naggar were sentenced to death in absentia. Two other defendants were sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour and 49 were sentenced to between 14 years' imprisonment with hard labour to two years' imprisonment. The court acquitted 31 defendants.

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 three people mentioned above on 15 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.

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

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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.