

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/07/96

29 February 1996

Further information (1) on EXTRA 04/96 (MDE 12/04/96, 15 January 1996) - Death Penalty

EGYPTAhmad 'Abd al-'Adhim Ahmad Fawwaz
Haggag Gum'a Mohammad Salim
Hosni al-Sayyid Hussein al-Buhairi
Zakariya Mohammad 'Ali Bashir
Salah Sa'd Mohammad 'Awadh
Mostafa 'Abd al-Hamid Mostafa

On 26 February 1996, President Hosni Mubarak reportedly ratified the death sentences of the six men named above. Although they are entitled to submit a petition to the Military Appeals Bureau, they have no right of judicial appeal as provided for by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Egypt in 1982. Amnesty International fears that the executions may be imminent.

The six men were sentenced to death on 13 January 1996 by the Supreme Military Court in Cairo as part of a trial known as *al-'Aidoun min al-Sudan* (Returnees from Sudan) involving 24 defendants, all alleged members of *al-Gama'a al-Islamiya* (Islamic Group). Charges against them included plotting to overthrow the present regime, threatening peace and national unity through the use of violence and illegally importing weapons and ammunition into the country with a view to engaging in violent and criminal activities.

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 on the six men named above have been ratified, and urging that the President use his constitutional powers to grant clemency and commute these and all other pending death sentences;
- expressing concern at the upsurge in the use of the death penalty in Egypt, (70 death penalties have been passed by military courts and 48 executions have been carried out), and explaining Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the most extreme form of cruel and inhuman punishment;
- 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
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

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The Human Rights Department
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Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt

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Dr Fathi Sorour

Speaker

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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 28 March 1996.