

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 12/09/94  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 175/94      Torture

3 May 1994

EGYPT      'Abd al-Haris Mohammad Madani, lawyer

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Amnesty International has received reports that 'Abd al-Haris Mohammad Madani was arrested on 26 April 1994 in his office in Cairo and so severely tortured at the Giza branch of the State Security Intelligence that he had to be taken to the Qasr al-'Aini hospital. He is believed to be still in hospital. There are fears that he may be subjected to torture again if taken back to State Security Intelligence custody.

'Abd al-Haris Mohammad Madani is a lawyer who has defended cases involving Islamists.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Serious and consistent allegations of torture continue to reach Amnesty International. The organization has documented its concern at the systematic use of torture in Egypt over a number of years. Recent publications which describe the legal context and methods of torture are *Egypt: Ten years of torture* (AI Index: MDE 12/18/91, October 1991), *Egypt: Security police detentions undermine the rule of law* (AI Index: MDE 12/01/92, January 1992), *Egypt: Grave human rights abuses amid political violence* (AI Index: MDE 12/03/93, May 1993) and *Egypt: Military trials of civilians: a catalogue of human rights violations* (AI Index: MDE 12/16/93, October 1993).

Political detainees are routinely blindfolded, stripped of their clothes and suspended from their wrists, bound or handcuffed together, sometimes in contorted positions, from the tops of doors or from barred windows. Political prisoners frequently report that they are beaten, and have electric shocks applied to sensitive parts of their bodies. Torture takes place in the State Security Intelligence's Lazogly Square headquarters in central Cairo, as well as at the various branches of the SSI.

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

- expressing grave concern at the reported torture of the lawyer 'Abd al-Haris Mohammad Madani;
- urging that a prompt, thorough and impartial official investigation into this reported torture be set up;
- urging that the methods and findings of such investigation be made public; and that, if the reports are based on fact, the perpetrators be brought to justice;
- seeking information about the exact reasons for the arrest of 'Abd al-Haris Mohammad Madani;
- seeking information about his legal situation.

#### APPEALS TO

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

**Telegrams: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt**

**Telexes: 93794 WAZRA UN**

**Faxes: 202 260 54 17**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

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

Cairo, Egypt

**Faxes: 202 723173**

The Human Rights Unit  
The Procuracy (Maktab al-Na'ib al-'Am)  
Dar Al-Qadha al-'Ali  
Ramses  
Cairo

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 14 June 1994.