

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/10/97

4 March 1997

Further information on EXTRA 14/97 (MDE 12/08/97, 4 February 1997) - Death Penalty

**EGYPT Abu al-Ma'aty Salah Nasr al-Din
Nabiha al-Sayyid 'Ali**

Nabiha al-Sayyid 'Ali, who had been sentenced to death by the Giza criminal court after being found guilty of murder, had her sentence commuted to life imprisonment with hard labour on 22 February 1997 by the same court, after the sentence had been reviewed by the Court of Cassation.

Her husband Abu al-Ma'aty Salah Nasr al-Din, who had also been sentenced to death in the same case, had his sentence upheld by the Court of Cassation at the beginning of February. Once death sentences have been confirmed, executions can be carried out within weeks.

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

- welcoming the commutation of the death sentence handed down on Nabiha al-Sayyid 'Ali, but expressing concern that the death sentence against her husband, Abu al-Ma'aty Salah Nasr al-Din, still stands;
- urging President Mubarak to use his constitutional powers to grant clemency and commute this and all other pending death sentences;
- acknowledging the seriousness of the crime for which Abu al-Ma'aty Salah Nasr al-Din was convicted, but explaining your opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life;
- expressing concern at the upsurge in the 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 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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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 4 April 1997.