

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 12/014/2003

28 March 2003

Further Information on UA 84/03 (MDE 12/022/2003, 24 March 2003 and follow-up (MDE 12/013/2003, 26 March 2003) - Fear of torture or ill-treatment/ health concerns

EGYPT

New names: Marwa Faruq (f)
Samir Fuli (m)
Mahmud 'Izzat (m)
Scores of other anti-war demonstrators

Released: Ziyad 'Abd al-Hamid al-'Uleimi (m), aged 23, lawyer
Muhammad Muhammad Zaki (m)
Muhammad Ibrahim al-Nafrawi (m)
Mahmud 'Ali Mahmud (m)
Hamada Ghazi al-'Irrq (m)
Gamal 'Abd al-'Aziz (m), lawyer
Yassir Farrag (m), lawyer
'Issam Fadl (m)
Ahmad 'Abd al-Salam (m)

To Released: Manal Ahmad Mustafa Khalid (f), aged 31, assistant film director
Nivin Ahmad Samir (f)
A.B.A. (f) aged 16

Nine of men named above were released on bail on 28 March. Manal Ahmad Mustafa Khalid, Nivin Ahmad Samir, and a 16-year-old girl are expected to be released later on today. Bail has been paid for another 20 detainees, including at least one child, who are all expected to be released in the coming days.

Though Gamal 'Abd al-Aziz, Yassir Farrag, Ziyad Abd al-Hamid al-'Uleimi and Ahmad 'Abd al-Salam have been released, they have been accused in another case connected with the anti-war demonstrations. The case has appeared before the State Security Prosecution office and resulted in several people, including two members of parliament, being issued with detention orders for 15 days.

Several more anti-war activists have recently been detained. Three students - Marwa Faruq, Samir Fuli and Mahmud 'Izzat - were detained between 24 and 25 March on or in front of the campus of Cairo University. They were taken to the Giza State Security Intelligence Branch at Gaber Ibn Hayyan, where Mahmud 'Izzat and Samir Fuli were reportedly ill-treated and tortured with electric shocks. On 26 March, the Giza Public Prosecution Office ordered them to be detained for 15 days.

BACKGROUND

On 20 and 21 March 2003 hundreds of people were detained during anti-war demonstrations in Egypt. Many were injured by security personnel, who used water cannons and clubs against the protestors. While most of those detained have been released, dozens of people have been issued with detention orders of up to 15 days. They have reportedly been accused of various offences, including participating in illegal gatherings and threatening public security. Some have also been accused of demolishing state property.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or English or your own language:

- noting the release on bail of several anti-war demonstrators detained on 20 or 21 March 2003;
- expressing concern at reports that anti-war demonstrators have been tortured or ill-treated in custody and that security forces used excessive force when detaining demonstrators;
- calling for an immediate and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture or ill-treatment, including the allegations of Mahmud 'Izzat and Samir Fuli;
- calling for the results of the investigations to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling for detained children to be treated in accordance with international standards for the protection of juvenile detainees, which include their separation from adult detainees;
- calling all detainees to be granted immediate access to medical treatment appropriate to their injuries;
- urging the authorities to ensure that the detainees have access to their relatives and lawyers;
- calling on the authorities to provide a guarantee that detainees will not be tortured or ill-treated in detention;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee that no one should be held in custody or charged solely on the basis of exercising his or her right to freedom of expression.

APPEALS TO:

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

Telegram: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt
E-mail: webmaster@presidency.gov.eg
Fax: + 202 390 1998
Telex: 93794 WAZRA UN
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency General Habib al-Adeli
 Minister of the Interior
 Ministry of the Interior
 Al-Sheikh Rihan Street
 Bab al-Louk, Cairo, Egypt

Telegram: Minister of Interior, Cairo, Egypt
E-mail: moi@idsc.gov.eg
Fax: + 202 579 2031 (may be difficult to get through)
Salutation: Dear Minister

His Excellency Mr Faruq Sayf al-Nasr
 Minister of Justice
 Ministry of Justice
 Midan Lazoghly, Cairo, Egypt

Telegrams: Minister of Justice, Cairo, Egypt
E-mail: moheb@idsc.gov.eg
Fax: + 202 795 8103
Salutation: Dear Minister

Counsellor Maher 'Abd al-Wahid
 Public Prosecutor
 Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali
 Ramses Street, Cairo, Egypt

Telegrams: Public Prosecutor, Cairo, Egypt
Fax: + 202 577 4716
Salutation: Dear Public Prosecutor

COPIES 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 9 May 2003.

