

EXTRA 52/99

Death Pen**EGYPT Nissan 'Abd al-Nabi Sulayman, (F), 29**

On 10 April 1999 the Mansura Criminal Court sentenced Nissan 'Abd al-Nabi Sulayman to death for her involvement in the murder of her husband in December 1997. The *Mufti*, the highest religious authority in Egypt, now has 10 days to decide whether to approve the sentence. Nissan 'Abd al-Nabi Sulayman therefore faces imminent execution.

Amnesty International does not have details of the exact charges against her but, according to press reports, she assisted her lover and an accomplice (their sentences are not known) in murdering her husband.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The death penalty is used extensively in Egypt, usually for criminal offences such as drug use or trafficking and murder, or for offences relating to "terrorism". In 1998, Amnesty International recorded the passing of 73 death sentences and 48 executions. So far this year, at least 21 death sentences have been passed and three executions carried out.

Death sentences issued by criminal courts must be passed to the *Mufti* for approval before going to the President, or his nominee, for ratification. Appeals against sentences passed by criminal courts cannot be appealed against unless procedural irregularities in the trial can be proved.

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

- acknowledging the seriousness of the crime for which Nissan 'Abd al-Nabi Sulayman was convicted, but explaining your opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life, pointing out that it has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect, and is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- urging Egypt's President to use his constitutional powers to grant clemency and commute this and all other pending death sentences;
- 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

Faxes: + 202 390 1998

E-mails: webmaster@presidency.gov.eg

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: + 202 574 9533

Dr Fathi Sorour

Speaker

The People's Assembly

Magles al-Sha'ab Street, Cairo, Egypt

Faxes: + 202 574 9175

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 2 May 1999.