

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 508/90 (MDE 12/13/90, 18 December 1990, and follow-ups MDE 12/02/91, 30 January 1991, MDE 12/09/91, 15 February 1991 and MDE 12/14/91, 5 April 1991) - Fear of Torture

EGYPT: Mustafa Mohammad Said al-Sharqawi
 Mohammad Hussein Mohammad Ibrahim Sallam
 Hassan Mohammad Isma'il Mohammad

Mustafa Mohammad Said al-Sharqawi and Mohammad Hussein Ibrahim Sallam, arrested at the end of September 1990, and Hassan Mohammad Isma'il Mohammad, arrested in October 1990, continue to be detained apparently because of their conversion from Islam to Christianity and non-violent religious activities. As stated in the further information update of 5 April 1991 (MDE 12/14/91), the latest court hearing in their case, which took place on 12 May, was expected to result either in their release or their trial. Instead, their detention has been extended until 12 June, when the decision whether to release them or try them should finally be made.

The latest information is that all three are currently in good health and there is no longer any reason to believe they are at risk of torture.

Amnesty International believes that these three men have merely exercised their right to freedom of religion and speech, without using or advocating violence. These rights are guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Egypt is a state party. The organization believes that they are therefore prisoners of conscience and calls for their immediate and unconditional release.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing your concern that these prisoners have now been held for well over six months without charge or trial, and that they appear to be prisoners of conscience, detained solely because of their non-violent religious beliefs;
- urging that, if they are indeed prisoners of conscience, they be immediately and unconditionally released.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency
General Mohammad Abdel-Halim Moussa
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Al Sheikh Rihan Street
Bab Al Louq
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
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His Excellency Faruq Sayf al-Nasr
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Midan Lazoghli
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Telexes: 20267 MJUST UN
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COPIES TO:

His Excellency Dr Ahmad 'Esmat 'Abd al-Maguid
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Midan at-Tahrir
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

and to diplomatic representatives of Egypt in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 June 1991.