

PUBLIC

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Fear of torture or ill-treatment/health concerns

EGYPT

**Manal Ahmad Mustafa Khalid (f), aged 31, assistant film director
Ziyad 'Abd al-Hamid al-'Uleimi (m), aged 23, lawyer
Scores of other anti-war demonstrators**

Scores of people remain in detention after anti-war demonstrations which took place in Cairo on 20 and 21 March. A number of detainees, including Manal Ahmad Mustafa Khalid and Ziyad 'Abd al-Hamid al-'Uleimi have reportedly been tortured or ill-treated in police custody.

Manal Ahmad Mustafa Khalid was detained during the 21 March protests near Tahrir Square in central Cairo. She was allegedly beaten by security forces at the demonstration, leaving her with a serious eye injury. Ziyad 'Abd al-Hamid al-'Uleimi was beaten by security forces when he was detained at the premises of the Egyptian Bar Association in Cairo. He claims he is now unable to move his left arm and is suffering from pain in his legs. The injuries to both Manal Ahmad Mustafa Khalid and Ziyad 'Abd al-Hamid al-'Uleimi require specialist medical attention, which has so far been denied.

Many others were injured by security personnel at the demonstration, who used water cannon and clubs against the protesters. While most of the hundreds of people detained in the context of anti-war demonstrations have been released, at least 62 people have been issued with detention orders of between four and 15 days. They have reportedly been accused of a variety of offences, including participating in illegal gatherings and threatening public security. Some have in addition been accused of demolishing state property. Several other detainees have been referred to the prosecution today, who may issue further detention orders.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Torture of political detainees is common in Egypt, in SSI branches, police stations and occasionally prisons. The most common methods of torture reported are: electric shocks, beatings, suspension by the wrists or ankles, burning with cigarettes, and various forms of psychological torture, including death threats and threats of rape or sexual abuse of the detainee or their female relatives.

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

- expressing concern at reports that Manal Ahmad Mustafa Khalid, Ziyad 'Abd al-Hamid al-'Uleimi and a number of other anti-war demonstrators have reportedly been tortured or ill-treated in police custody or by security forces using excessive force when detaining demonstrators;
- calling for Manal Ahmad Mustafa Khalid, Ziyad 'Abd al-Hamid al-'Uleimi and others 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 for an immediate and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture or ill-treatment, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- 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
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

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 5 May 2003.