

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 327/93 (MDE 12/14/93, 16 September 1993) and follow-up (MDE 12/23/93, 25 November) - Death Penalty

EGYPT:Mahmoud Salah

Mostafa 'Awni Zaki

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Mahmoud Salah and Mostafa 'Awni Zaki were executed by hanging at 8am on 27 November at Cairo's Isti'naf Prison. They had been sentenced to death by the Supreme Military Court in Cairo on 15 September 1993.

They were among eight defendants who were charged with membership of an illegal organization which aimed to suspend the constitution, and with murdering two people, attempting to murder eight others and possession of weapons and ammunition. Four other defendants were sentenced to up to 25 years' imprisonment (three of them in absentia) and two were acquitted.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the last 18 months politically motivated acts of violence by armed opposition groups have escalated sharply in Egypt. Islamic militant groups have committed deliberate and arbitrary killings, which Amnesty International has condemned. Victims have included a writer known for his secularist views, tourists, Copts, government officials and police and prison officers.

The two people mentioned above were sentenced to death by a military court, even though they are civilians. (For further information on this issue see recent Amnesty International document Military trials of civilians: a catalogue of human rights violations, MDE 12/16/93, October 1993). The death sentences are subject to ratification by the President of the Republic, and then review by the Military Appeals' Bureau, also headed by the President of the Republic. Such procedures fall far short of international standards for fair trial, as guaranteed by Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Egypt is a state party, which guarantee that everyone who is convicted shall have the right to their conviction and sentence being reviewed by a higher tribunal. The United Nations' Economic and Social Council has urged that these rights be respected in all cases involving the death penalty.

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

- expressing grave concern at these executions, which Amnesty International considers to be summary and arbitrary executions;

- urging that civilians should not be tried by military courts and calling for new trials in civilian courts which comply with international standards

to which Egypt is a state party (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights);

- expressing concern at the sudden upsurge in the use of the death penalty in Egypt (39 death sentences have been passed by military courts since December 1992 and 19 executions have now taken place), and explaining Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the most extreme form of cruel and inhuman punishment;

- 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  
Muhammad Hosni Mubarak  
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
'Abedine Palace  
Cairo, Egypt  
**Telegrams: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt**  
**Telexes: 93794 WAZRA UN**  
**Faxes: 202 260 54 17**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

The Human Rights Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Corniche al-Nil  
Cairo, Egypt  
**Faxes: 202 723173**

Dr Fathi Sorour  
Speaker  
The People's Assembly  
Magles al-Shaab Street  
Cairo, Egypt

and to diplomatic representatives of Egypt accredited to your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**