

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 12/25/98

15 May 1998

Further information on UA 81/98 (MDE 12/17/98, 12/03/98) - Death penalty

EGYPT' Aida Nour al-Din Abu-Zeid (f), nurse, 25

'Aida Nour al-Din Abu-Zeid's defence lawyers have appealed against her death sentence to the Court of Cassation on the basis that statements she made during interrogation were extracted under duress and therefore invalid.

The lawyers stated that she should not have been interrogated at the time because of her bad physical and mental state.

Final verdicts by criminal courts can be appealed against before the Court of Cassation, but only when it can be proved that there were procedural irregularities in the trial.

'Aida Nour al-Din Mohammad Abu-Zeid was sentenced to death on 11 March 1998 by the Alexandria criminal court after being found guilty of allegedly killing one patient and attempting to kill others.

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

- acknowledging the seriousness of the crime for which 'Aida Nour al-Din Mohammad Abu-Zeid 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 the 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 part.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Mohammed 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

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

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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

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 26 June 1998.