

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/29/96

Further information on UA 285/96 (MDE 12/28/96, 5 December 1996) - Torture/Fear of Torture/Possible Prisoner of Conscience 23 December 1996

EGYPT Mohammad Wagdi Mohammad Durra

Amnesty International welcomes information it has received that Mohammad Wagdi Mohammad Durra was released on bail on 15 December 1996, following a ruling by the North Cairo Court on 10 December. Mohammad Wagdi Mohammad Durra, who converted from Islam to Christianity at the end of 1994, had reportedly been arrested at his home in Tanta on 10 October 1996 and accused of propagating information with the intention of causing insult to religions.

However, according to the information received by Amnesty International, the charges brought against Mohammad Wagdi Mohammad Durra have not been dropped.

Amnesty International is concerned that he may still be tried and sentenced solely on account of his conscientiously-held religious beliefs.

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

- welcoming the release on bail of Mohammad Wagdi Mohammad Durra;
- expressing concern that the charges against Mohammad Wagdi Mohammad Durra have not been dropped, and that he may still be tried and sentenced solely on account of his conscientiously-held religious beliefs;
- reiterating concern at the alleged torture of Mohammad Wagdi Mohammad Durra after his arrest on 10 October 1996 in the SSI building in Tanta, and on two earlier occasions in January 1995 and April 1996;
- urging that a full, independent and impartial enquiry be carried out into the allegations of torture against him, that the methods and findings of this investigation be made public within reasonable time and that anyone implicated in perpetrating the torture against him be brought to justice without delay.

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

Salutation: Your Excellency

General Hassan al-Alfy
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Al-Sheikh Rihan Street
Bab al-Louk
Cairo, Egypt

Telexes: 21361 MOICM

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Cairo, Egypt

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Al-Mustashar Ahmad Sayyid Ahmad
Assistant Public Prosecutor and
Head of the Human Rights Department
The Public Prosecutors Office
Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali

2

Ramses Street, Cairo, Egypt

Ms Nayla Gabr

The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt
Fax: +20 2 574 7839

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 12 February 1997.