

PUBLIC

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12 August 2003

Further Information on UA 237/03 (MDE 12/012/2003, 8 August 2003) Prisoner of conscience / health concern

EGYPT

Ashraf Ibrahim (m), engineer

On 7 August, the State Security Prosecution officially charged Ashraf Ibrahim with leadership of an illegal organization and referred his case for trial to the (Emergency) Supreme State Security Court, which denies defendants the right to an appeal before a higher court.

Ashraf Ibrahim and his lawyers were informed of this decision on 9 August and Ashraf Ibrahim ended his ten-day hunger strike on the same day. He was then examined by two doctors from the non-governmental organization the *Nadim Center for the Management and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence*, who had requested permission to visit him. The doctors found his health to be weak but stable.

Four other men were also referred to court in the same case and are currently being sought by the police. They are: Nasser Faruq al-Buhairi, a researcher at the non-governmental organization *the Land Center for Human Rights*; Yahya Fikri Amin, an engineer; Mustapha Muhammad al-Basyuni, unemployed; and Rimun Edward Jundi, a student. All five men are members of the *Egyptian People's Committee for Solidarity with the Palestinian Intifada* and the *Egyptian Movement against the War*.

The men are charged in connection with activities alleged to have taken place between January 2000 and 19 April 2003. Ashraf Ibrahim, Nasser Farouq al-Buhairi and Yahya Fikri Amin are accused, under Article 86 bis of the penal code, of leadership of an illegal organization, named in the indictment as the *Revolutionary Socialists*. If they are found guilty, they face prison sentences of up to 15 years. The two others are accused of membership of the same organization. They could be sentenced to up to five years' imprisonment. There is no available information on the *Revolutionary Socialists*.

Ashraf Ibrahim faces two additional charges under Article 86 bis and Article 80 (d) of the penal code. These are, firstly, possessing printed material relating to the *Revolutionary Socialists* intended for distribution; and, secondly, harming Egypt's reputation by spreading abroad false information regarding the internal affairs of the country. With regard to the second charge, the indictment makes specific reference to providing information on alleged human rights violations to international human rights organizations.

Amnesty International is concerned that the men will be tried on charges, based on Articles 80 (d) and 86 bis of the penal code which stipulate prison sentences for the mere exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and association.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Amnesty International will use longer term campaigning methods on behalf of Ashraf Ibrahim and the other men. Please send a final round of appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic, English or your own language:

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Ashraf Ibrahim as a prisoner of conscience, jailed solely for the legitimate and peaceful expression of his beliefs;
- calling for all legislation which, in violation of international standards, stipulates prison sentences for the mere exercise of the right to freedom of expression to be reviewed or abolished.

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 - (if e-mail bounces, please send appeal by airmail)
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 (please keep trying)
Salutation: Dear Minister

Counsellor Maher 'Abd al-Wahid
Public Prosecutor
Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali
Ramses Street, Cairo, Egypt

Telegrams: Public Prosecutor, Cairo, Egypt
Fax: + 202 577 4716
Salutation: Dear Public Prosecutor

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 23 September 2003.