

8 July 1998

Further information on UA 172/98 (MDE 12/32/98, 9 June 1998) - Health Concern / Ill-treatment / Possible prisoner of conscience**EGYPT' Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im, freelance journalist, aged 33**

'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im has reportedly stopped his hunger strike and has now been transferred from prison to Tora Penitentiary hospital in Cairo for treatment. His health is said to be improving.

'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im has also recently received a visit by a delegate from the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights and has been allowed to see his family.

'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im began a hunger strike on 10 May 1998 in protest against his almost five-year illegal detention in al-Wadi al-Gadid Prison, one of Egypt's most notorious prisons. His health, already precarious as a result of the appalling conditions in the prison, began to seriously deteriorate further. Additionally, he was refused medicines sent to him by his family who, when they arrived at the prison on a previous occasion, were prevented from seeing him.

'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im was arrested on 21 February 1993. Later that year he appeared before a military court but was acquitted, along with dozens others, in the case known as Talai' al-Fatah (Vanguards of the Conquest). However, instead of being released he was given a new detention order and returned to prison.

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

- urging that 'Abd al-Mun'im Gamal al-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im be immediately and unconditionally released since he was acquitted by a military court in October 1993 and has been illegally detained for almost five years.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency General Habib al-'Adeli
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Al-Sheikh Rihan Street, Bab al-Louk, Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: + 202 579 2031
Salutation: Dear Minister

His Excellency Faruq Sayf al-Nasr
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Midan Lazoghly, Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: + 202 355 8103
Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr Raga' al-'Arabi
Public Prosecutor
Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali
Ramses Street, Cairo, Egypt

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Faxes: + 202 577 4716
Salutation: Dear Mr Raga' al-'Arabi

COPIES TO:

Ms Nayla Gabr
The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: + 202 574 9533

General Nabil Sayyam
Director of Prisons
Maslahat al-Sugun
Al-Gala' Street, Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: + 202 574 5561

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 19 August 1998.