EXTERNAL AI Index: MDE 12/41/97

17 July 1997

Further information on UA 183/97 (MDE 12/36/97, 19 June 1997) and follow-ups (MDE 12/37/97, 24 June 1997 and MDE 12/39/97, 3 July 1997) - Prisoners of conscience / Fear of further Prisoners of conscience / Fear of torture

EGYPTHamdein Sabbahi, journalist Mohammad 'Abdu, veterinarian Mohammad Sulayman Fayyad, lawyer Hamdi Haykal, lawyer

It has been reported that on 15 July 1997 the Public Prosecutor renewed the detention order on the four men mentioned above for a further fifteen days pending investigation.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Hamdein Sabbahi, Mohammad 'Abdu, Mohammad Sulayman Fayyad and Hamdi Haykal as prisoners of conscience;
- continuing to express deep concern about their alleged torture;
- urging that a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation be carried out into the allegation of torture, that the methods and findings of this investigation be made public and that anyone found responsible be brought to justice without delay;
- seeking assurances that the four men be protected from any form of torture and ill-treatment and that they have access to their lawyers, families and to medical care.

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

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Cairo, Egypt

Telex: 21361 MOICM UN
Fax: +202 355 7792
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Ms Nayla Gabr The Human Rights Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt

Faxes: +202 574 9808

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

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 28 August 1997