

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/43/97

19 August 1997

Further information on UA 183/97 (MDE 12/36/97, 19 June 1997) and follow-ups (MDE 12/37/97, 24 June, MDE 12/39/97, 3 July and MDE 12/41/97, 17 July) - Prisoners of conscience / Fear of further POCs / Fear of torture

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

and new arrest: Sayyed Ahmad al-Tokhi, human rights defender, lawyer

Amnesty International has received reports that Sayyed Ahmad al-Tokhi, a lawyer at the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR), is being detained allegedly in connection with his human rights work. He was arrested at Cairo Airport on 9 August 1997 as he was boarding a plane to travel to the United Arab Emirates. He was initially held in al-Mahkoum Prison in Tora where he was said to have been ill-treated then transferred to Mazra'at Tora Prison where he is currently held under a 15-day detention order. His detention is believed to be connected to his peaceful anti-Law 96 activities. In view of the reported torture of four men arrested earlier in connection with their activities against Law 96 (named above, see original UA and previous updates) and in view of reports that he was ill-treated while detained in al-Mahkoum Tora prison, there are fears that Sayyed Ahmad al-Tokhi may be at risk of torture and ill-treatment in custody.

Please continue action on behalf of Hamdein Sabbahi, Mohammad 'Abdu, Mohammad Sulayman Fayyad and Hamdi Haykal as outlined in previous update, (MDE 12/41/97, 17 July). In addition, 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 Sayyed Ahmad al-Tokhi as a prisoner of conscience held solely for his non-violent activities connected to criticism of Law 96 of 1992;
- seeking assurances that he is being humanely treated and that he has access to his lawyers, families and to medical care if necessary;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that no others are arrested and detained for exercising their right to peacefully criticize and protest against Law 96 of 1992.

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

Telexes: 21361 MOICM UN
Faxes: +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 29 September 1997.