

EXTERNAL

AI Index:MDE 12/47/97

3 September 1997

Further information on UA 183/97 (MDE 12/36/97, 19 June 1997) and follow-up (MDE 12/37/97, 24 June, MDE 12/39/97, 3 July, MDE 12/41/97, 17 July and MDE 12/43/97, 19 August) - Prisoners of conscience / Fear of further Prisoners of Conscience / Fear of torture

EGYPT Hamdein Sabbahi, journalist
Mohammad 'Abdu, veterinarian
Mohammad Sulayman Fayyad, lawyer
Hamdi Haykal, lawyer
Sayyed Amad al-Tokhi, human rights defender, lawyer

and new arrest Kamal Khalil Khalil, engineer

Amnesty International has received reports that Kamal Khalil Khalil, an engineer, was arrested on 30 August 1997 in connection with his non-violent opposition to Law 96 of 1992. Law 96, which will be implemented in October 1997, raises agricultural rents and permits landowners to evict farmers. It abolishes the provisions of the 1952 agrarian reform law which guaranteed security to farmers on rented land. Charges against him reportedly include dissemination of material critical of Law 96, and inciting farmers to oppose the new law by peaceful means, such as organizing demonstrations and strikes. He had recently attended a public meeting concerning Law 96.

Kamal Khalil Khalil was initially detained at the headquarters of the State Security Investigations Department in Lazoghly Square in Cairo, but he is currently being held in Istiqbal Tora Prison under a 15-day detention order.

It is reported that at least 180 people, including the six men named above, are currently being detained in connection with their activities in opposition to Law 96. The majority of those detained are farmers. Many more have been arrested in recent weeks and were detained under short-term detention orders, but they have since been released.

Please continue action on behalf of Hamdein Sabbahi, Mohammad 'Abdu, Mohammad Sulayman Fayyad and Hamdi Haykal as outlined in update of 17 July (MDE 12/41/97), and on behalf of Sayyed Ahmad al-Tokhi as outlined in update of 19 August (MDE 12/43/97). 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 Kamal Khalil Khalil 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 Riham 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 15 October 1997.