

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/57/97

21 October 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, MDE 12/41/97, 17 July, MDE 12/43/97, 19 August, MDE 12/47/97, 3 September, MDE 12/52/97, 30 September, and MDE 12/54/97, 9 October 1997) - Prisoners of Conscience / Fear of Torture

EGYPT Akram Alfy Mikha'il, student (released)

Mostafa Mohammad Mostafa, civil servant (released)

Kamal Khalil Khalil, engineer

Akram Alfy Mikha'il and Mostafa Mohammad Mostafa were released from detention on 16 October 1997. They had been detained for more than three weeks on charges connected to their peaceful activities in opposition to a new agricultural law, Law 96 of 1992.

Kamal Khalil Khalil, an engineer, remains in detention and is currently being held in Mazra'at Tora Prison, near Cairo. He was arrested on 30 August, in connection with his non-violent opposition to Law 96 of 1992. 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 concerned with Law 96. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.

The organization believes that scores of other people, mostly farmers, continue to be detained in connection with opposition to Law 96 but is not aware of any recent arrests.

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

- welcoming the release of Akram Alfy Mikha'il and Mostafa Mohammad Mostafa, but expressing concern that they were detained for over three weeks as prisoners of conscience;
- continuing to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Kamal Khalil Khalil as a prisoner of conscience;
- seeking information on his legal status and urging that he be protected from any form of torture or ill-treatment;
- urging the authorities to release all those detained solely for exercising their right to campaign peacefully against Law 96 of 1992 and to ensure that no others are arrested on the same grounds.

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

Faxes: + 202 390 1998

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

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 2 December 1997.