

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 304/98 (MDE 12/57/98, 2 December 1998) - Human Rights defender / Prisoner of conscience

**EGYPT**Hafez Abu Sa'ada, Secretary General of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights

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Hafez Abu Sa'ada was released from Tora Prison on the evening of 6 December 1998 after the Higher State Security Prosecution set him free on bail.

His arrest on 1 December caused widespread protest by human rights organizations in Egypt and abroad. After having been released Hafez Abu Sa'ada informed Amnesty International that the conditions during the first two day of his detention were appalling.

Hafez Abu Sa'ada only learned after his release that Amnesty International had campaigned on his case through the Urgent Action network: "I would like to thank Amnesty International for all the efforts undertaken on my behalf" he stated. Hafez Abu Sa'ada is convinced that national and international pressure contributed to his release.

Hafez Abu Sa'ada is optimistic that he will be able to travel to Paris on 8 December, in order to participate in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Many thanks to all of you who sent appeals. No further action is required by the Urgent Action network.

***"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression"***

*Article*

*9, Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

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