

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 25/02/97

9 January 1997

Further information on EXTRA 177/96 (MDE 25/11/96 , 13 November 1996) and follow-up (MDE 25/13/96, 18 November 1996) - Imminent flogging / Possible prisoner of conscience / Prisoner of conscience and new concern: Ill-treatment

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) Elie Dib Ghalib, Lebanese Christian, restaurant manager, 30

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Amnesty International has received reports suggesting that Elie Dib Ghalib has been deliberately subjected to food deprivation and solitary confinement.

Specifically, he is said to have been refused food for three days recently by the prison guards and put in a solitary cell. He is also said to have refused food when it was supplied to him afterwards. Amnesty International does not know whether Elie Dib Ghalib is still refusing food.

The food deprivation and solitary confinement are reported to have been initiated as punishment for the international publicity given to Elie Dib Ghalib's case in late 1996. If true, Amnesty International would consider such measures to be cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

Elie Dib Ghalib is a prisoner of conscience, sentenced to one year's imprisonment and 39 lashes because of his marriage as a Christian to a Muslim woman. He has already spent more than a year in prison but he continues to be held. Amnesty International does not know whether the sentence of flogging has been carried out.

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

- seeking clarification of the above reports of punishments against Elie Dib Ghalib, and if true, calling for an immediate investigation and for anyone found responsible for abuses to be brought to justice;
- raising concern that Elie Dib Ghalib remains in prison and calling for his immediate and unconditional release as he has been imprisoned solely on religious grounds, namely because of his marriage, as a Christian, to a Muslim woman;
- urging that any pending sentence of flogging against Elie Dib Ghalib be commuted.

**APPEALS TO:**

His Highness  
al-Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan  
President of the United Arab Emirates  
Ruler of Abu Dhabi  
Manhal Palace  
PO Box 280, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
**Telexes: 22220 PALACE EM**  
**Telegrams: President Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi, UAE**  
**Salutation: Your Highness**

His Highness  
Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid al-Maktoum  
Crown Prince  
Ruler of Dubai  
PO Box 899, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**Telexes: 23245**

**Telegrams: Crown Prince, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

**Salutation: Your Highness**

His Excellency

Dr Abdulla bin Omran Taryam

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Ministry of Justice

PO Box 753

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**Faxes: +9712 664 944**

**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

His Excellency

General Dr Mohammad Saeed al-Badi

Minister of Interior

PO Box 398

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**Faxes: +9712 461 621**

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of UAE accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 February 1997.