

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 25/13/96

18 November 1996

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

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) Elie Dib Ghalib, Lebanese Christian, restaurant manager, aged 29

Elie Dib Ghalib's sentence of 39 lashes was not carried out on 16 November 1996. He is reported to have expressed intent to convert to Islam and his case is said to have been transferred to the office of the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan al-Nahyan, for a final decision on whether the sentence should be carried out. Amnesty International has no details about Elie Dib Ghalib's reported intent to convert to Islam.

Amnesty International is concerned that Elie Dib Ghalib remains at risk of flogging, and now believes that it is clear that he is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely on religious grounds, namely because of his marriage as a Christian to a Muslim woman.

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

- opposing the use of flogging as a judicial punishment in all cases as a violation of the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and seeking assurances that the sentence of flogging against Elie Dib Ghalib will not be carried out;
- 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;
- calling for an immediate investigation into allegations that he was tortured in pre-trial detention, and for anyone found responsible for abuses to be brought to justice.

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
Telegrams: Crown Prince, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Salutation: Your Highness

2

His Excellency
General Dr Mohammad Saeed al-Badi
Minister of Interior
PO Box 398
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
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 18 December 1996.