

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EGYPT: @ARRESTS OF OPPONENTS OF THE GULF WAR

Since the outbreak of war in the Gulf a number of journalists, students, medical doctors and lawyers have been arrested and detained under Egypt's state of emergency legislation, apparently for expressing their opposition to the war, or because of their Palestinian connections. Palestinians are also reported to be among those recently detained. In some cases those arrested have been charged with distributing leaflets, or spreading information hostile to the national interest, while others have been in administrative detention, incommunicado, in the custody of the State Security Intelligence Police.

Information reaching Amnesty International suggests that some, such as the two medical doctors, Dr Mohammed 'Abd al-Latif Tala'at and Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-Banna, may have been detained (for 17 and 16 days respectively), for having supported declarations against the war issued by their professional or other associations, in this case, the Egyptian Medical Syndicate. Similarly, Dr 'Adel al-Mashad is reported to have been arrested in connection with a declaration against the war issued by the Committee for the Defence of National Culture, of which he is a member. He is reportedly being held in Abu Za'abal Prison.

Other detainees still held include Dr Mohammed Mandour, a psychiatrist and member of the board of trustees of the Egyptian Organization of Human Rights, and Dr 'Emad 'Atrees, a medical doctor, both arrested on 8 February and currently held in incommunicado detention at the State Security Intelligence Directorate in Lazoghly, Cairo. Reasons for their arrest are unclear, but both have worked for the Palestine Red Crescent in Egypt.

At least 11 students at 'Ain Shams University in Cairo were arrested in early February, one or two days before Egypt's universities re-opened. They are believed to be detained at Abu Za'abal Prison.

Amnesty International is concerned that some or all of those detained may be held solely for the non-violent exercise of their human rights and, as prisoners of conscience, should be released immediately and unconditionally.

The organization is also urging that all detainees be given prompt access to lawyers and relatives, and medical doctors where necessary, that they be humanely treated, and that they be brought promptly before a court of law to examine the legality of their detention.

In recent years Amnesty International has received numerous and consistent allegations of arbitrary arrests under state of emergency legislation and

torture of political detainees held in incommunicado detention, particularly while in the custody of the State Security Intelligence Police. Amnesty International has repeatedly called on the Egyptian authorities to implement the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which it has ratified, which prohibit arbitrary arrest, and to take concrete steps to protect detainees from torture or ill-treatment, as it is required to do under the UN Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which Egypt acceded in 1986.

NAMES OF DETAINEES

STUDENTS AT 'AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY

All the students named below are believed to have been arrested on or around Thursday 7 February 1991 in connection with the preparation of leaflets concerning the war. They are reportedly held at Abu Za'bal Prison.

Faculty of Law

Ehab Hamdi Mohammed
 Wala' Fahmi 'Ali
 Mohammed Hosam al-Din Mukhtar
 * al-Sayyid Fathi al-Sayyid
 Mohammed al-Seba'iy Gharib
 Hisham Mohammed Higazi
 Ramadan 'Ali al-'Arabi
 Tariq al-'Awadhi

Faculty of Commerce

* Abdullah Taha 'Ali

Other Students

* Ibrahim 'Abdu Salih
 Ahmed 'Abd al-Azim, Higher Institute of Social Services
 (arrested on 13 February 1991)

MEDICAL DOCTORS

The following two medical doctors were arrested on 8 February 1991 and are believed to be held at the State Security Intelligence Directorate at Lazoghly, Cairo:

Dr Mohammed Mandour
 Dr 'Emad 'Atrees

ENGINEERS

* Dr 'Adel al-Mashad, also a member of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, reportedly held in Abu Za'abal Prison

OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS

Magdi Ahmed Hussein, deputy secretary general of the Socialist Labour Party (SLP), arrested on 25 January 1991 at a Cairo mosque where he reportedly spoke out against the war.

Nagi al-Shahabi, a leading member of the SLP.

They are both being held in Istiqbal Tora Prison.

- * These prisoners are being held under two different detention systems: they are both charged and administratively detained. The others are all in administrative detention.