

UA 39/02

Death pen

EGYPTHanan Sabir Mansur (f), aged 27
Farag Milad Riyad (m), aged 31

Hanan Sabir Mansur and her male friend Farag Milad Riyad have been sentenced to death for murdering her mother. Their death sentences have been submitted to the religious authorities for approval, and must then be ratified by the President.

The two were sentenced to death by Cairo Criminal Court. It is not possible to appeal against the final decision of a criminal court, except on grounds of procedural irregularities in the trial. On 6 February the court submitted the death sentence to the Mufti, the highest religious authority in Egypt. If he gives his approval, as expected, the sentence will be passed to President Mubarak for ratification.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Egyptian courts have increased their use of the death penalty in the last few years, despite the world trend towards abolition. At least 67 people, including five women, were sentenced to death in 2001. The death penalty is applied for murder, drug use or trafficking, and a number of other offences.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life. The death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments and is brutalizing to all involved in its application.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- acknowledging that Hanan Sabir Mansur and Farag Milad Riyad have been convicted of a very serious crime, and recognizing that governments have a responsibility to bring the perpetrators of violent crime to justice;
- expressing your opposition to the death penalty in all cases, as a violation of the right to life as set out in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments, and that it is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- urging the Mufti not to approve this death sentence or any others that come before him;
- urging the President to use his constitutional powers to grant clemency and commute this sentence if and when it comes before him and all other outstanding death sentences;
- drawing attention to the world trend towards abolishing or reducing the use of the death penalty, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Egypt is a state party.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Mohammad Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
'Abedine Palace, Cairo, Egypt

Telex: 93794 WAZRA UN

Telegram: President of the Republic, Cairo, Egypt

Fax: + 202 390 1998

E-mail: webmaster@presidency.gov.eg

Salutation: Your Excellency

M. Farid Nasr Wassel
Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Wakf Ministry
Sabri Abou Alam Street
Bab al-Louk, Cairo, Egypt

Telegram: Mufti of the Republic, Wakf Ministry, Cairo, Egypt

**Fax: + 202 3926 155 (If somebody picks up the phone, please say in English:
'please turn on the fax machine.')**

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Mr Hussain Dharar
The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt

**Fax: + 202 574 7936 (Please write at the top of the fax, 'For the attention
of Mr Hussein Dharar')**

Salutation: Your Excellency

Dr Fathi Sorour
Speaker
The People's Assembly
Magles al-Sha'ab Street, Cairo, Egypt

Fax: + 202 574 9175

Salutation: Your Excellency

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 19 March 2002.