

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/11/98

19 February 1998

Further information on UA 282/96 (MDE 12/27/96, 3 December 1996) and follow-ups (MDE 12/01/97, 7 January 1997; MDE 12/29/97, 4 June 1997) - Death Penalty / Torture / Legal Concern

EGYPT Mostafa Mohammad Mahmoud 'Eissa
Al-Numeiry Ramadhan Sayyid Ahmad
'Adel 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Rahman, aged 23

The three men named above were executed on 19 February 1998. They had been sentenced to death on 2 December 1996 by an (Emergency) Supreme State Security Court in Cairo in a case involving 32 members of the armed Islamist group *al-Gama'a al-Islamiya* (Islamic Group). Two others, Mounir Mostafa 'Abd al-Hafiz and 'Abd al-Hamid Abu 'Aqrab, were sentenced to death *in absentia*, 19 received sentences ranging from life imprisonment with hard labour to five years' imprisonment. Seven were acquitted.

All of those sentenced were accused of planning and perpetrating a series of attacks in the province of Asyut in Upper Egypt in 1993 which resulted in the deaths of at least eight policemen (including high-ranking officers) and a number of civilians, carrying out attacks on trains and public buildings, the illegal possession of arms and ammunition and membership of a banned organization which aims to overthrow the government by force.

During the trial, defence lawyers reportedly claimed that the defendants had been tortured and requested that their statements given during police interrogation not be admitted as evidence. This request was reportedly disregarded by the court.

No further action is requested by the UA Network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.