

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/12/98

19 February 1998

Further information on EXTRA 125/97 (MDE 12/50/97, 17 September 1997) and follow-up (MDE 12/58/97, 22 October 1997) - Death Penalty / Legal Concern

EGYPT Husam Mohammad Khamis Nuwair
Mohammad Fawzi Ibrahim
Ahmad 'Abd al-Fattah Sayyed
Mohammad Mostafa Isma'il

The four men named above were executed by hanging in Isti'naf Prison in Cairo on 17 February 1998. They had been sentenced to death by the Supreme Military Court in Heikstep, near Cairo, on 15 September 1997 in a case involving 97 alleged members of the armed Islamist group *al-Gama'a al-Islamiya* (Islamic Group).

Charges against the 97 defendants in this case included the planting of bombs outside nine banks in 1995, the killing of police chief Ra'uf Khairat in 1994, the possession of explosives, and the alleged membership of a banned organization which aims to overthrow the government by force. Sixty three of the defendants received sentences of between one year and life imprisonment with hard labour, five were sentenced to between three and 10 years' imprisonment while 25 of the defendants were acquitted. One defendant was reported to have died in custody prior to the trial and five were tried *in absentia*.

The defendants, all civilians, were tried before a military court, the procedures of which were grossly unfair.

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