

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 273/94 (MDE 12/12/94, 18 July 1994) - Death Penalty

EGYPT: Mohammad Rashad 'Abd al-Hamid Higazy
Mohammad 'Abd al-'Alim Khalifa
Mas'ud al-'Arif Ibrahim
Tariq Ahmad 'Abd al-Samad
Usama Mohammad Rashad

According to the al-Ahram newspaper of 27 July 1994, the President of the Republic has now ratified the death sentences passed on the five people named above. Although all five men may submit petitions to the Military Appeals Bureau, they have no right of appeal as provided for by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Their execution may be imminent.

The five were sentenced to death by the Supreme Military Court in Cairo, which pronounced judgement in the case known as *the attempted assassination of the Interior Minister, General Mohammad Hassan al-Alfy* on 16 July 1994.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern that the death sentences passed on the above five people have been ratified, and urging that the President use his constitutional right to grant clemency and commute these and all other pending death sentences; if these men are executed, Amnesty International will consider them summary and arbitrary executions;
- expressing concern at the upsurge in the use of the death penalty in Egypt (56 death sentences have been passed by military courts since December 1992 and 35 executions have now taken place), and explaining Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the most extreme form of cruel and inhuman punishment;
- drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, in accordance with Article 6 of 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

Telegrams: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt

Telexes: 93794 WAZRA UN

Faxes: + 202 260 54 17

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil

Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: + 202 723173

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

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 8 September 1994.