

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 12/14/00

11 May 2000

Further information on UA 87/00 (MDE 12/11/00, 17 April 2000) - Death penalty

EGYPT Sha'ban 'Ali 'Abd al-Ghani

Sha'ban 'Ali 'Abd al-Ghani's death sentence has been approved by the Mufti, Egypt's highest religious authority, and he could be executed at any time. His last hope is a pardon from President Mubarak.

He was sentenced to death by the (Emergency) Supreme State Security Court in April. The court confirmed the verdict on 10 May, and there is no right of appeal.

Sha'ban 'Ali 'Abd al-Ghani is one of 14 alleged members of an armed Islamist group who were tried in the "terrorist organization of Upper Egypt" case. They were charged with killing policemen and civilians, and with a number of robberies.

Two members of the group, 'Ali Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Khalaf and 'Ali Hassan Fayi, were sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for 15 and 25 years respectively. The others all received either three- or five-year jail terms.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Arabic, English, French or your own language:

- acknowledging the right and duty of states to bring to justice those responsible for violent crimes, but explaining your opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the most extreme form of cruel and inhuman punishment, stressing that there is no evidence that it is an effective deterrent to such crimes;
- urging the president to use his constitutional powers to grant clemency to Sha'ban 'Ali 'Abd al-Ghani, and to commute all other pending death sentences;
- expressing concern at the continuing extensive use of the death penalty in Egypt and drawing attention to world trends to abolish or reduce the use of the death penalty, in accordance with Article 6 of the UN 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, Cairo, Egypt
Telexes: 93794 WAZRA UN
Faxes: + 202 390 1998
E-mails: webmaster@presidency.gov.eg
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Mr Hani Khalaf
The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: + 202 574 9533

Dr Fathi Sorour

Speaker

The People's Assembly

Magles al-Sha'ab Street, Cairo, Egypt

Faxes: + 202 574 9175

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 22 June 2000.