

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 52/93 (MDE 12/06/93, 28 May 1993) - and follow-up:
MDE 12/11/93 (13 July 1993) - Death penalty

EGYPT:Hassan Ramadan 'Abdullah SHALQANI
Ahmed Hussein Ahmed Al-HUSSEINI
Tariq 'Abd al-Raziq HASSAN
Ashraf Al-Sayyid Ibrahim SALIH
Ibrahim Sayyid 'ABD AL-'AAL

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the execution on 17 July 1993 of all five men named above. They were tried and sentenced to death by the Supreme Military Court on 27 May 1993. They had been charged in connection with bomb attacks on tourist targets and an attempt on the life of the Minister of Information, Safwat al-Sherif.

All the above were sentenced to death by a military court, even though all of them are civilians. The death sentences were subject to ratification by the President of the Republic, and then review by the Military Appeals' Bureau, also headed by the President of the Republic. Amnesty International believes that such procedures fall short of international standards for fair trial, as guaranteed by Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Egypt is a state party, which guarantee that everyone who is convicted shall have the right to their conviction and sentence being reviewed by a higher tribunal. The United Nations' Economic and Social Council has urged that these rights be respected in all cases involving the death penalty.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telexes/express and airmail letters in English or your own language:

- expressing grave concern at these executions;
- urging an immediate review of military trial procedures to ensure that they comply with international standards to which Egypt is a state party (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights);
- expressing concern at the sudden upsurge in the use of the death penalty in Egypt (28 death sentences have been passed by military courts since December 1992 and 14 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;
- stating that in Amnesty International's view the death penalty is not an effective deterrent to violent crime;

- 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.

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APPEALS TO:

His Excellency
Muhammad Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
'Abedine Palace
Cairo, Egypt
Telegrams: President Mubarak, Cairo, Egypt
Telexes: 93794 WAZRA UN
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

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

His Excellency
Mr Faruq Sayf al-Nasr
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Maydan Lazoghly
Cairo, Egypt

and to diplomatic representatives of Egypt accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.