

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/15/96

4 June 1996

Further information on EXTRA 04/96 (MDE 12/04/96, 15 January 1996) and follow-up (MDE 12/07/96, 29 February) - Death Penalty

EGYPT Ahmad 'Abd al-'Adhim Ahmad Fawwaz
 Haggag Gum'a Mohammad Salim
 Hosni al-Sayyid Hussein al-Buhairi
 Zakariya Mohammad 'Ali Bashir
 Salah Sa'd Mohammad 'Awadh
 Mostafa 'Abd al-Hamid Mostafa

On 2 June 1996 the six men named above were executed. They had been sentenced to death by the Supreme Military Court in Cairo on 13 January 1996 in a case involving 18 other defendants, 11 of whom were sentenced to between three and 15 years' imprisonment with hard labour and one of whom received a sentence of 10 years' imprisonment. Six others were acquitted.

The case was known as *al-'Aidoun min al-Sudan* (Returnees from Sudan). All the defendants were allegedly members of *al-Gama'a al-Islamiya* (Islamic group). Charges against them had included plotting to overthrow the present regime, threatening peace and national unity through the use of violence and illegally importing weapons and ammunition into the country with a view to engaging in violent and criminal activities.

Since October 1992, when President Mubarak started issuing special decrees referring civilian cases for trial by military courts, 70 people charged with "terrorist" offences have been sentenced to death, including 16 *in absentia*, by these courts and 54 executions have been carried out. These trials have been violating some of the most fundamental requirements of international law: the right to be tried before independent and competent judges, the right to have adequate time to prepare a defence, and the right to appeal to a higher court.

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

- expressing grave concern at the six executions on 2 June 1996;
- urging that the President use his constitutional powers to commute all other pending death sentences;
- expressing concern at the upsurge in the use of the death penalty in Egypt and reiterating 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
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

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

Ms Nayla Gabr
The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: +20 2 574 7839

and to diplomatic representatives of Egypt accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.