

EXTERNAL

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Middle East
Date: 9 September 1991

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

@Torture in Egypt

Keywords

Theme: ill-treatment/ torture/ medical evidence of torture

Profession/association: doctor/ teacher

Summary

The torture of political detainees continues in Egypt ten years after the state of emergency was imposed in October 1981. The methods of physical torture most commonly reported include beating, suspension in contorted positions and electric shocks applied to sensitive parts of the body. Victims are usually blindfolded and therefore unable to identify their torturers. Details are given in the attached paper which includes the cases of Dr Ahmed Isma'il Mahmoud (p.6) and Dr Mohammad Mandour (pp.8-9).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Letters

Letters from medical professionals, preferably written in Arabic, or else in French, English or your own language, should be sent to the addresses below:

- saying that you have seen the AI report on torture in Egypt [or alternately that you have read reports of torture in Egypt]
- expressing alarm and surprise at these reports which you could note included doctors among the victims, including Drs Ahmed Isma'il Mahmoud and Mohammad Mandour
 - urging the Egyptian authorities to urgently investigate the torture allegations
- asking for investigation of the allegation that a hospital in Asyut was used by the *firq al-amm* for torture

You should ask the authorities to inform you of the result of any investigation into the use of torture in Egypt and urge that strong directives are given that torture is unacceptable and contrary to Egypt's international obligations.

Addresses

President of the Republic

President of the Republic
Muhammad Hosni Mubarak
'Uraba Palace
'Uraba Street
Heliopolis
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

Prime Minister

Dr 'Atif Sidqi
Office of the Prime Minister
Magles al-Shaab Street
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

Minister of the Interior

General Mohammad 'Abd al-Halim Moussa
Al Sheikh Rihan Street
Bab al Louq
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

Fax: +355 7792

Please send copies of your letters to:

Egyptian Medical Syndicate

Egyptian Medical Syndicate
The Committee for Human Rights
Dar al-Hikma
42, Kasr al-Ainy Street
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR)

EOHR
17 Maidan Aswan
el-Mohandesine
Cairo, Egypt

[You could add a covering letter expressing deep concern at the continuing use of torture in Egypt and express support for any action the association is taking to oppose the use of torture.]

and to Egyptian diplomatic representatives in your country.

Publicity

The attached circular [MDE 12/18/91] could form the basis of an article in the medical or general press. (Note: the report is embargoed for 23 October 1991). In addition to the two medical cases the report makes reference to forensic medical evidence of torture.

Please send copies of any published articles to the IS as well as Egyptian diplomatic representatives.

Contact with medical associations/organizations

You should send a copy of the attached paper to your medical association(s) drawing attention in a covering letter to the references to torture of doctors. Suggest they write to the government and the medical association expressing concern at the use of torture in Egypt.