

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture

13 September 1991

EGYPT:

Mohammad al-Sayyid al-Sayyid Higazi

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Amnesty International has received reports that **Mohammad al-Sayyid al-Sayyid Higazi**, a 29-year-old Arabic teacher and a graduate of Cairo University, was arrested on 18 August 1991 and is detained at the State Security Intelligence, Doqqi branch (Cairo). There are fears that he may be subjected to torture.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mohammad al-Sayyid al-Sayyid Higazi was arrested under the state of emergency provisions while visiting his in-laws in Bulaq al-Dakrur, Giza (Cairo) on 18 August 1991. He was first arrested in 1981 following the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat and was detained for more than a year without charge or trial. He was arrested again in 1984 and detained for several months, allegedly for collecting money and distributing it to the families of members of Islamic groups who were detained at that time. He was arrested again in 1986 and detained for several months for alleged involvement in the activities of Islamic groups. He had reportedly been hiding until the date of his latest arrest on 18 August 1991.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the reported incommunicado detention since 18 August 1991 of Mohammad al-Sayyid al-Sayyid Higazi;
- seeking assurances that he is being humanely treated and has been allowed prompt and regular access to a lawyer of his choice;
- seeking information about the exact reasons for his arrest and whether or not he has been charged.

#### APPEALS TO:

1.

General Mohammad 'Abdel-Halim Moussa  
[Salutation: Dear Minister]  
Minister of the Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
Al-Sheikh Rihan Street  
Bab al-Louq  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

Telegrams: Minister Interior, Cairo, Egypt  
Telexes: 21361 MOICM UN  
Faxes: + 20 2 355 7792

2.

Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali  
[Salutation: Your Excellency]  
Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
International Cooperation and Immigration  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Midan al-Tahrir  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

**Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister, Cairo, Egypt**  
**Telexes: 92220 KHARG UN**  
**Faxes: + 20 2 723 173**

**COPIES TO:** Diplomatic representatives of Egypt in your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 October 1991.