

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 12/35/98

16 June 1998

Further information on UA 162/98 (12/28/98, 22 May 1998) - Death Penalty

**EGYPT Magdi Hamed Thabit, student
Ussama Mohammad Thabit
Saber 'Ali Abu-Zeid**

Magdi Hamed Thabit's death sentence was commuted into a life sentence with forced labour on 15 June 1998 by the Giza Criminal court. Ussama Mohammad Thabit and Saber 'Ali Abu-Zeid remain under sentence of death.

Magdi Hamed Thabit, Ussama Mohammad Thabit and Saber 'Ali Abu-Zeid were sentenced to death by the Giza Criminal court on 16 May 1998. The three men were found guilty of murdering two people while they tried to burgle a house.

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

- welcoming the commutation of Magdi Hamed Thabit's sentence and acknowledging the seriousness of the crime for which Ussama Mohammad Thabit and Saber 'Ali Abu-Zeid were convicted, but explaining your opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life, pointing out that it has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect, and is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- urging the President to use his constitutional powers to grant clemency and commute these and all other pending death sentences;
- 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
Faxes: + 202 390 1998
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

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The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt
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Dr Fathi Sorour
Speaker
The People's Assembly
Magles al-Sha'ab Street, Cairo, Egypt
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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 28 July 1998.