

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 12/54/97

9 October 1997

Further information on UA 183/97 (MDE 12/36/97, 19 June 1997) and follow-ups (MDE 12/37/97, 24 June, MDE 12/39/97, 3 July, MDE 12/41/97, 17 July, MDE 12/43/97, 19 August, MDE 12/47/97, 3 September and MDE 12/52/97, 30 September) - Prisoners of Conscience / Fear of further POCs / Fear of Torture

EGYPT Sayyed Ahmad al-Tokhi, human rights defender (released)
 Kamal Khalil Khalil, engineer
 Akram Alfy Mikha'il, student
 Mostafa Mohammad Mostafa, civil servant

Amnesty International has been informed that Sayyed Ahmad al-Tokhi was released from detention on 6 October 1997. However, Kamal Khalil Khalil, Akram Alfy Mikha'il and Mostafa Mohammad Mostafa, remain in detention.

Amnesty International considers the three men to be prisoners of conscience detained for their peaceful activities in opposition to a new agricultural law.

Sayyed Ahmad al-Tokhi, a lawyer working for the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, was detained for nearly two months, reportedly on charges which included inciting farmers to oppose the new agricultural law, Law 96 of 1992, and hindering its implementation.

Further arrests are reported to have taken place since the implementation of the law began on 1 October. In the last few days security forces arrested 10 tenant farmers in Giza Governorate. They were later released but were then forcibly evicted from the land they rented. This law raises agricultural rents and permits landowners to evict farmers, abolishing the provisions of the 1952 agrarian reform law which guaranteed security to farmers on rented land.

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

- welcoming the release of Sayyed Ahmad al-Tokhi, but expressing concern that he was detained as a prisoner of conscience for nearly two months;
- continuing to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Kamal Khalil Khalil, Akram Alfy Mikha'il and Mostafa Mohammad Mostafa as prisoners of conscience;
- seeking information on the legal status of the three men and the current whereabouts of Akram Alfy Mikha'il and Mostafa Mohammad Mostafa and urging that they be protected from any form of torture or ill-treatment;
- urging the authorities to release all those detained solely for exercising their right to campaign peacefully against Law 96 of 1992 and to ensure that no others are arrested on the same grounds.

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

General Hassan al-Alfy
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Al-Sheikh Rihan Street
Bab al-Louk, Cairo, Egypt
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Cairo, Egypt
Telexes: 21361 MOICM UN
Faxes: +202 355 7792
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

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

Mr Raga' al-'Arabi
Public Prosecutor
Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali
Ramses Street
Cairo
Egypt

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

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 20 November 1997.