

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 107/99 Death Penalty

10 August 1999

Egypt Du'a Samir 'Abd al-Khaliq, f
 Al-Sayyid Mohammad Mussa al-Shuga'i, teacher

Du'a Samir 'Abd al-Khaliq and al-Sayyid Mohammad Mussa al-Shuga'i have been sentenced to death by the Zaqaziq Criminal Court and could be executed at any time. The appeal court ordered their retrial before another chamber of the criminal court after they appealed against their sentences. On 7 August 1999, the Zaqaziq Criminal Court upheld the death sentences. The men have now exhausted all possibilities of appeal and have been transferred to death row in Zaqaziq prison.

Du'a Samir 'Abd al-Khaliq and al-Sayyid Mohammad Mussa al-Shuga'i were convicted of the murder of Du'a's husband in 1996.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The death penalty, which is applied for criminal offences such as drug use or trafficking and murder, and for offences related to "terrorism", has been used extensively in Egypt in recent years. In 1998 Amnesty International recorded 74 death sentences passed by military, criminal and (Emergency) Supreme State Security courts, and 48 executions. So far this year 62 death sentences and 13 executions have been recorded.

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

- acknowledging the seriousness of the crime of which Du'a Samir 'Abd al-Khaliq and al-Sayyid Mohammad Mussa al-Shuga'i were convicted, but explaining your opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life (as stated in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person"), 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
e-mails: webmaster@presidency.gov.eg
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Ms Navla Gabr
The Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt
Faxes: + 202 574 9533

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Speaker

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and to diplomatic representatives of Egypt accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY