

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: MDE 12/05/91  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 44/91

Fear of Torture

11 February 1991

EGYPT : Dr Mohammed MANDOUR, psychiatrist  
Dr 'Emad 'ATREES, medical doctor

---

Dr Mohammed Mandour, a psychiatrist and member of the board of trustees of the Egyptian Organization of Human Rights, was arrested in the early hours of Friday 8 February. Dr 'Emad 'Atrees, a medical doctor, was arrested the same day. Reports indicate that, as of 11 February, they are being held in incommunicado detention at the State Security Intelligence Police (SSIP) Directorate at Lazoghly, Cairo, under state of emergency legislation. There are fears that they may be subjected to physical or psychological torture or ill-treatment, and that they are being held for the non-violent exercise of their human rights.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The precise reasons for these arrests are unclear. Orders for administrative detention issued by the Minister of Interior under state of emergency laws are rarely produced at the time of arrest, and frequently state merely that a person is considered a threat to national security. A number of journalists, lawyers, medical doctors and students have been similarly detained since the outbreak of war in the Gulf, apparently for having expressed their opposition to the war. Amnesty International has received reports that Palestinians and Egyptians with Palestinian connections may also be at risk of detention. Both Dr Mandour and Dr 'Atrees have worked with the Palestine Red Crescent in Egypt.

Amnesty International has received numerous reports of torture of political detainees held in incommunicado detention while in SSIP custody in recent years. It has repeatedly urged the Egyptian Government to take concrete steps to safeguard detainees from torture or ill-treatment, in accordance with its obligations as state party to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Torture or Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

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

- expressing concern at the arrest of Dr Mohammed Mandour and Dr 'Emad 'Atrees and urging their immediate and unconditional release unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- seeking assurance that they are being humanely treated;
- urging that they be given immediate access to a lawyer of their own choosing.

**APPEALS TO:**

General Mohammad Abdel-Halim Moussa  
Minister of the Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
Al Sheikh Riham Street  
Bab Al Louq  
Cairo  
Arab Republic of Egypt

Telegrams: Minister Interior, Cairo, Egypt  
Telexes: 21361 MOICM UN  
Faxes: +20 2 724 241, Attn: Head of Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs, with a request to forward to the Minister of Interior

Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali  
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Midan At-Tahrir  
Cairo  
Arab Republic of Egypt

Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Cairo, Egypt  
Telexes: 21712 KHARG UN, 23392 KHARG UN or 93862 KHARG UN

**COPIES TO:**

The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR)  
17 Maidan Aswan  
el - Mohandesine  
Cairo, Egypt

and 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 March 1991.