



**International covenant
on civil and
political rights**

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

**COMMENTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN ON THE
CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMITTEE (CCPR/CO/74/SWE)**

[1 December 2003]

Information requested the Human Rights Committee through its Special Rapporteur for follow-up on Concluding Observations

1. Additional information requested by the Human Rights Committee concerning the judicial procedures which the two persons expelled to Egypt are facing, or may face.
2. As regards Mr. El Zari you have already been informed that he was released from prison 12 October 2003 following a court decision. The Egyptian Ministry of Justice informed the Swedish Embassy in Cairo 29 October 2003 that Mr. El Zari was released pending the outcome of ongoing investigations which encompasses approximately 200 suspects. It is thus not yet decided if Mr. El Zari will be facing charges and be tried in court. The Swedish Embassy in Cairo has been in contact with Mr. El Zari after his release from prison.
3. With regard to Mr. Agiza, at present serving a prison sentence in the Tora Masra prison in the outskirts of Cairo, it is established that he submitted a petition in February 2002 to have his case and sentence reviewed. According to our information, such a petition is decided upon by the President of the Republic of Egypt. There are, according to our information, four options available: the petition could be rejected; amnesty could be granted; the prison sentence could be reduced; and lastly, the case could be referred to a court for a new trial.

4. The Swedish Embassy in Cairo has raised the matter regarding the petition with the Egyptian authorities several times and, referring to the guarantees issued by the Egyptian Government, urged them to speedup the process. The Embassy was informed last week that the case was prepared by the Ministry of Defence and has finally been submitted to the President's office. The Swedish Embassy will continue to monitor this matter and if necessary raise it again with the pertinent authorities. Likewise the Embassy's visits to the prison will continue.
