

ORAL QUESTION H-0005/04
for Question Time at the part-session in February 2004
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Lennart Sacrédeus
to the Commission

Subject: William Shaiboub

A double murder was committed in the Egyptian village of El-Kosheh on 14 August 1998. Over 1000 Christians were taken for interrogation by the police. It has been said that many of the detainees were tortured in order to extract a confession, including a 13-year-old girl.

The Coptic Christian William Shaiboub Arsal was also tortured, and was eventually charged for the double murder based solely on the confessions of two army officers, who later attempted to retract their statements, saying they had been given under duress. He was incarcerated for two years before his sentence was finally handed down in June 2000. He was sentenced to 15 years with hard labour.

William Shaiboub has appealed the court's decision but a date has not been given. Has the Commission any possibility to put pressure on the Egyptian Government, so that the sentence may be appealed?

Tabled: 07.01.2004
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