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Abercrombie, Cara L (NEA/I)

From: Rubin, Joel M
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2004 10:13 AM
To: Abercrombie, Cara L (NEA/I)
Cc: Hernandez, Carrie W (NEA/LEA); NEA-I-POL-DL; Meyer, Robin D
Subject: RE: Egyptian Detainee

RELEASED IN PART
B5, B6

Cara - here's the readout we just got from Embassy Cairo (see below). [redacted] In addition, please let me know if [redacted] calls again and feel free to pass him my way. Thanks for your help!

B5
B6

Joel

(SBU) Egyptian Detainee in Iraq: We are looking into this more closely, but what we know so far does not indicate a groundswell of public opinion. Our FSNs note that there was a short mention of the issue in Al Akhbar a week or two ago, and then a major story in the "Wafd" newspaper over the weekend, but it does not seem to have been picked up by other media thus far. What we have seen thus far seems to imply that Mohamed Abdel Monaem El Ezmerly is either an Iraqi of Egyptian descent or an Egyptian who has been settled in Iraq for a long time, but we will dig a little more on that as well. The People's Assembly just adjourned until November, so a parliamentary hearing anytime soon is unlikely.

Joel M. Rubin
Egypt Desk. State/NEA
(202) 647-4680

-----Original Message-----

From: Abercrombie, Cara L (NEA/I)
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2004 5:21 PM
To: Rubin, Joel M
Cc: Hernandez, Carrie W (NEA/LEA); NEA-I-POL-DL
Subject: Egyptian Detainee

Joel,

As I said in our phone conversation, [redacted] has asked NEA/I to look into Egyptian press reports that Mohamed Abd El Monaem El Ezmerly, an Egyptian national, died while detained in Iraq. According to the reports, a family member visited him three weeks before his death and found him in good health. The family said they received a death certificate along with the body that listed the cause of death as "pressure on the brain." The family hired a doctor to perform an autopsy - he found says the cause of death is a broken neck as a result of a sudden strike on the back of the head.

B6

[redacted] says this story is gaining publicity in Egypt and could become a public opinion issue for the U.S. [redacted] said the Egyptian parliament is considering holding a hearing on the case. Further, he says the deceased's name is not listed on the CPA website listing all detainees (the site is in Arabic, so I cannot confirm).

I have passed this information on to the detainee policy group at OSD asking for further information, but would appreciate your contacting the American Embassy in Cairo for a better readout on this case.

It is worth noting that while [redacted] was adamant that we do something he did not recommend any course of action.

-Cara

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK E SCHMELZER
DATE/CASE ID: 07 OCT 2004 200303827

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