URGENT ACTION

SCHOOLBOY DETAINED, AS SUPPORTS EX-PRESIDENT

High-school student Khaled Mohamed Bakara was arrested on 25 November at his school, after his teachers found he was using stationery with a symbol supporting Egypt's ousted president, Mohamed Morsi. He is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression.

The head of Balteem Secondary School in Kafr el-Sheikh governorate called the security forces after teachers found that 15-year-old **Khaled Mohamed Bakara** had a ruler, notebook and diary with the four-finger "Rabaa" symbol adopted by many of Mohamed Morsi's supporters.

After questioning Khaled Mohamed Bakara the next day, the Public Prosecution in el-Borolos, a village near Balteem, referred the teenager to its head office in the city of Kafr el-Sheikh. On 27 November, the Public Prosecution in Kafr el-Sheikh ordered that Khaled Mohamed Bakara be detained for 15 days while it investigated allegations that he belonged to a "banned group" and possessed "stationery with a symbol that inspires violence and abuse against the armed forces". On 8 December, the prosecutor ordered that Khaled Mohamed Bakara's detention be renewed for another 15 days.

During his arrest and questioning by the Public Prosecution, Khaled Mohamed Bakara was held in police stations with adult criminal suspects, despite being a child. He is now held in a military prison in Kafr el-Sheikh. Khaled Mohamed Bakara's lawyer has told Amnesty International that at least another seven children are held in the same prison and his family have said that they have only been able to visit him once because of the difficulty of obtaining permission to visit detainees in military prisons.

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to release Khaled Mohamed Bakara immediately and unconditionally as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression:
- Calling on them to drop all charges against Khaled Mohamed Bakara.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 JANUARY 2014 TO:

Public Prosecutor
Hesham Mohamed Zaki Barakat
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Supreme Court House, 1 "26 July" Road
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2 577 4716
+202 2 575 7165

(switched off after office hours, GMT+2)

Salutation: Dear Counsellor

Interim President
Adly Mahmoud Mansour
Office of the President
Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

Fax: +202 2 391 1441 Salutation: Your Excellency And copies to:

Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign
Affairs for Human Rights
Mahy Hassan Abdel Latif
Human Rights and International
Humanitarian and Social Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo

Arab Republic of Egypt Fax: +202 2 574 9713

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.





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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The authorities have continued their sweeping crackdown on supporters of Mohamed Morsi and members of the Muslim Brotherhood movement to which he is closely linked. Since 3 July 2013, the security forces have arrested thousands of Mohamed Morsi's supporters, including most of the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood. Lawyers have told Amnesty International that in many cases those detained were not given their due process rights, such as having access to lawyers or being brought before a judge.

The security forces used excessive force on 14 August 2013 to disperse protesters gathered in support of ousted President Mohamed Morsi in Cairo's Nasr City, killing hundreds. Supporters of Mohamed Morsi subsequently adopted the four-finger "Rabaa" symbol to remember the violence, "Rabaa" being both the word for "fourth" in Arabic and the first part of the name of the area where most protesters died, Rabaa al-Adawiya.

The Court of Urgent Matters outlawed all the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood the following month, banned the movement and all affiliated associations and ordered the seizure of its assets and offices. The Ministry of Social Affairs then removed it from the list of approved non-governmental organizations.

Name: Khaled Mohamed Abdelghany Bakara Gender m/f: m

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