

URGENT ACTION

GROUP DETAINED FOLLOWING MARCH

Twenty-three people have been detained in Cairo following a march against Egypt's repressive protest law on the evening of 21 June. They include noted women's rights activist and human rights defender Yara Sallam. She is a prisoner of conscience.

The protesters had been marching through Cairo to the presidential palace but were repeatedly attacked by groups of men in civilian clothes, Amnesty International was told by representatives of the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, where **Yara Sallam** works.

The security forces dispersed the protest using tear gas and arrested around 30 people at the scene. They were aided in some cases by men in civilian clothes, who seized people and handed them over to the security forces.

Prosecutors have ordered the detention of 23 people for four days on accusations that they had protested without authorization and vandalized property. Defence lawyers said the security forces had yet to present any evidence to substantiate the claims that protesters were involved in violence.

It was not clear that all those arrested had taken part in the demonstration; some may have been bystanders, defence lawyers said. Yara Sallam had been walking through the area with her cousin and was buying water from a kiosk when she was arrested. She appears to have been targeted for her human rights work, including her job at the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights.

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

- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to release Yara Sallam immediately and unconditionally, as she is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for exercising her right to freedom of peaceful association;
- Calling on them to release, immediately and unconditionally anyone detained solely for exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly;
- Urging them to release all others detained, or charge them with recognizably criminal offences and try them in line with international fair trial standards.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 5 AUGUST 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

President

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
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
Multilateral Affairs and International
Security Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2 574 9713
Email: Contact.Us@mfa.gov.eg

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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The protesters had tried to march on the Ittihadiya presidential palace in the early evening of 21 June, but faced repeated attacks from groups of men in civilian clothes, they told their defence lawyers. The groups of men threw broken glass at them and later attacked them armed with knives and swords.

When protesters reached Ismailiya Square, the security forces fired tear gas at them, scattering them into side streets. The security forces then arrested around 30 people at the scene, some of whom were captured by so-called “honourable citizens”, groups of people who support the authorities.

Some people were released, but prosecutors have remanded 23 of those arrested in custody pending investigation. The group face accusations that they protested without a permit, destroyed public and private property and possessed implements that might have inflicted injury or death, defence lawyers told Amnesty International.

Yara Sallam is a human rights defender who currently works at the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights. She is also known for her work on women’s rights, including during her previous job in Nazra for Feminist Studies.

She had been walking through the area with her cousin and was buying water from a kiosk when a group of men in civilian clothes approached them. The group called the security forces, who arrested both women. They subsequently released Yara Sallam’s cousin, but kept Yara Sallam detained. Yara Sallam’s questioning has focused on the nature of her work for the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights and its management, the organization told Amnesty International.

Those detained also include Sanaa Ahmed Seif, the sister of well-known activist Alaa Abd El Fattah, who is serving a 15-year prison sentence for protesting without authorization.

The group are detained in police stations in the Cairo suburb of Heliopolis, lawyers said.

Under Egypt’s Law Regulating the Right to Public Gatherings, Processions and Peaceful Protests (Law 107 of 2013), protest organizers must submit their plans to the authorities, who have wide powers to cancel or reroute proposed demonstrations. President Adly Mansour signed the law on 24 November 2013.

Names: Sanaa Ahmed Seif (f), Mohamed Ahmed Youssef Saad, Bassam Mohamed Aly El Saed, Ahmed Samir Mahmoud Mohamed, Islam Tawfik Mohamed Hassan, Yasser Samir Fadel Sayed, Ibrahim Ahmed ElSaed AbdelRahaman, Salwa Aboud Aly Mehrez, Karim Moustafa Yassin, Yara Sallam (f), Islam Mohamed AbdelHamid Mohamed, Nahed Sherif Abdelhamid ElSaed, Fekrya Mohamed Mohamed, Mohamed Anwar Massoud, Hanan Moustafa Ahmed Soliman, Moataz Mahmoud Mansour Ragheb, Mohamed ElSaed AlSayed, Ahmed Mohamed Abdelhamid Mohamed, Mahmoud Hesham Hassanien AbdelAziz, Mo'men Mohamed Radwan, Mohamed ElSayed Mohamed, Moustafa Mohamed Ibrahim, Samar Ibrahim Mahmoud Ibrahim
Gender m/f: both