

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST BEATEN AND AT RISK OF TORTURE

In the evening of 28 November Alaa Abdel Fattah, a well-known Egyptian activist, was taken from his home and arrested in connection to the peaceful protest in front of the Shura Council which took place on 26 November.

Upon arrest, **Alaa Abdel Fattah** was taken to a Central Security Forces camp on the highway road between Cairo and Alexandria, known as "kilo 10.5", which is not an official place of detention. His wife, Manal, posted a picture on social media showing blood stains in their bedroom where he was beaten by security forces, who raided the home without presenting an arrest warrant. She also reported being slapped. Mobile phones and computers found at their home were confiscated. On 29 November, prosecutors ordered Alaa Abdel Fattah's detention for four days, pending investigations.

Following media reports on 27 November that the Public Prosecution issued warrants for his arrest, Alaa Abdel Fattah informed the judicial authorities that he will appear for questioning on 30 November.

Earlier on 28 November, detention orders against 24 prisoners of conscience arrested during the violent dispersal of the peaceful protest in front of the Shura Council on 26 November were extended by another 15 days. Lawyers withdrew from the proceedings in protest over the alleged torture of their clients at the First New Cairo Police Station. The detainees started a hunger strike yesterday in protest of their treatment.

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

- ✓ Calling on the Egyptian authorities to release the 25 detainees immediately and unconditionally as they are held solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of assembly and expression;
- ✓ Pending their release, urging them to give the detainees access to their legal representatives, families and any medical assistance they may require;
- ✓ Calling on them to conduct independent and impartial investigations into reports that detainees were beaten and sexually harassed upon arrest and while in custody, and to ensure that all detainees are protected from any further torture and other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 10 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.

This is the first update of UA 322/13. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/071/2013/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Alaa Abdel Fattah has been judicially harassed by successive governments in Egypt for his opposition activism. He spent time in detention during the rule of deposed president Hosni Mubarak and the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces. He was also facing charges in several separate cases during the presidency of ousted President Mohamed Morsi. The trial in the case of the burning of the headquarters of former presidential candidate Ahmed Shafiq is still ongoing, with the ruling expected in January 2014. Activists with the 6 April movement stated that security forces also raided a location where they believed Ahmed Maher, one of the founders of the movement, was present. He is also wanted in the connection to the same protest in front of the Shura Council.

The security forces arrested dozens of female protesters, journalists and lawyers on 26 November, releasing them without charge hours later. Activists told Amnesty International that the security forces had left the arrested women on the desert road outside Cairo at about 1am on 27 November. Female protesters told Amnesty International that security forces in civilian clothes from the First New Cairo Police Station forcibly dragged them on the ground into police vehicles, beat and punched them, and pulled their hair. Some women reported sexual harassment. They plan to lodge a complaint with the Public Prosecution.

Prosecutors from Qasr El-Nil, central Cairo, interrogated the protesters arrested on 26 November at the First New Cairo Police Station, subsequently ordering the detention of 24 male protesters for four days, pending criminal investigations. Lawyers told Amnesty International that the accused are facing charges of participating in a public gathering without prior authorization, resisting officials on duty, thuggery, destruction of property, and delaying traffic. Two of the detainees are apparently also facing charges of possessing a knife without a license and stealing a police radio. According to lawyers, several protesters complained of beatings. The detainees were transferred from the First New Cairo Police Station to the Tora Prison on 27 November without any prior notification to their lawyers or families.

A new protest law signed by President Adly Mansour on 24 November gives the Interior Ministry wide discretionary powers over protests. It requires protest organizers to submit complete plans for any gatherings of more than 10 people to the Interior Ministry at least three days in advance. The law also gives the Interior Ministry the authority to cancel a demonstration or change its route, in effect meaning that demonstrations can take place only with the Ministry's prior authorization. The law also gives the security forces a legal framework for the use of excessive force against any protesters deemed to have committed a "crime punishable by law". Protesters convicted of breaking the law face up to five years in prison and fines of 100,000 Egyptian pounds (USD\$14,513).

Following the arrests, Egypt's Prime Minister announced a committee would "review" the law, though it is unclear what powers it will have to amend the legislation.

Names: 1. Ahmed Hossam El Din Mohamed; 2. Abdul Rahman; 3. Jamal Abdullah Zaki; 4. Yahya Mahmoud Abdul Shafi; 5. Mdug Jamal al-Din Hassan; 6. Mahmoud Yahya Abdal Shafi; 7. Peter Jalal Yousef; 8. Mohamed Hossam El Din Mahmoud; 9. Wael Mahmoud Mohammed; 10. Hossam Ahmed Shawki; 11. Mohammed Hassan Ibrahim; 12. Mustafa Yousri Mustafa; 13. Baz Mohammad Rifai; 14. Ahmed Mohamed Nabil Hassan; 15. Tariq Abdul Rahman; 16. Mohammed Salah al-Din al-Hilali; 17. Mohammed Abdul Rahman; 18. Mahmoud Abdul Hameed; 19. Abdul Rahman Atef Bobo; 20. Hani Mahmoud Jamal; 21. Mohammad Sami Mokhtar; 22. Ahmed Abdulrahman Mohammed; 23. Mahmoud Mohammed Abdulaziz; 24. Muhammad Abdul Hakim; 25. Alaa Abdel Fattah

Gender m/f: m

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