

URGENT ACTION

EGYPTIAN PROTESTERS RELEASED

Some 111 protesters who participated in a sit-in in Tahrir Square, Cairo, were released on 4 August 2011 after spending three days in military custody. Another 16 protesters had also been released a day earlier.

The protesters were arrested on 1 August when soldiers and Central Security Force officers forcibly dispersed a sit-in in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt. The protesters were then transferred to military camps and some protesters have reported that they were beaten and otherwise ill-treated.

The protesters continue to face charges of attacking police officers and soldiers but will be tried in a civilian court.

The Central Security Force in Egypt is a riot police. It deals with maintaining public order. It falls under the Ministry of Interior and has more than 300,000 members. In its previous reports on Egypt, Amnesty International has documented Central Security Force officers' involvement in forced evictions, assisting the former State Security Investigation services (SSI) in making arrests and in controlling and quelling protests.

The sit-in in Tahrir Square had begun on 8 July, during which protesters demanded that the Egyptian authorities speed up the trial of the former president Hosni Mubarak and others for the deaths of protesters in January and February.

Many thanks to all of those who sent appeals. No further action is requested.

This is the first update of UA 236/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/043/2011/en>

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