

URGENT ACTION

DETENTION OF TWO CANADIANS EXTENDED

On 29 September the detention of two Canadians, Tarek Loubani and John Greyson, was extended by 45 days. The men claim they were beaten following their arrest and have endured cramped and unsanitary conditions in Tora prison, Egypt. They remain on hunger strike to protest against their continued detention.

According to their lawyers, **Tarek Loubani** and **John Greyson** are facing a number of accusations including murder, attempted murder, violence and inciting violence, possessing weapons, thuggery, and destroying public and private property. They could face a life imprisonment. Once investigations have been concluded the prosecutor will decide whether to issue formal charges. Until the decision is made they will be held in preventive detention.

In a public statement, released by Tarek Loubani and John Greyson on 29 September, the men describe their detention conditions as "ridiculous". Initially they were held with 36 other prisoners in a 3m x 10m cell with no telephone access, little exercise, and limited access to water. The men have now been moved to a smaller cell (3.5m x 5.5m) shared with six others. They also have improved access to showers and are able to exercise more frequently, but they are still sleeping on concrete in cockroach-infested conditions. The public statement also describes the details of their arrest in which they were "slapped, beaten, ridiculed" and accused by security forces of being "foreign mercenaries".

Tarek Loubani and John Greyson were arrested on 16 August after visiting Ramsis Square, where supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi organized a protest. According to their statement, the men went to Ramsis Square to see what was happening and there saw a man bleeding from a bullet wound and heard calls for a doctor. Tarek Loubani began treating the injuries while John Greyson filmed events. They said they were unable to return to their hotel due to a police cordon and were detained after asking for help at an army checkpoint.

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

- Urging the Egyptian authorities to release Tarek Loubani and John Greyson, unless they have sufficient admissible evidence to try them before a civilian court in line with international fair trial standards and without recourse to the death penalty;
- Asking the Egyptian authorities to continue to give the men access to their lawyers, families and consular representatives and any medical assistance they may require.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 NOVEMBER 2013 TO:

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

Minister of Defence

General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Ministry of Defence
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2 290 6004
Fax/Phoneline: +202 2 291 6227

Salutation: Dear General

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

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA: 248/13. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/054/2013/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tarek Loubani and John Greyson were arrested on 16 August 2013.

On that day, 97 people died in violence in Cairo after protests around Ramsis Square by supporters of Egypt's ousted president, Mohamed Morsi, deteriorated into violence. Clashes which began shortly after Friday prayers near the al-Fath mosque grew fiercer once a pro-Morsi march arrived onto the 6 October Bridge seeking to join the main protest in Ramsis Square.

More than 650 people, including women and children, were arrested all on the same broad array of accusations, without consideration for their individual criminal responsibility.

Tarek Loubani and John Greyson arrived in Cairo on 15 August with the intention of travelling immediately to Gaza but were unable to because the border was closed. Tarek Loubani was intending to build a relationship between the hospital he works for in Canada and the university hospital in Gaza and John Greyson was planning to film his efforts.

The men began a hunger strike, in which they receive liquids but no food, on 16 September in protest at their continued detention.

According to media reports, a spokesperson for Egypt's Foreign Ministry, Badr Abdelatty, said that they are being charged with "participating in an illegal demonstration" and that espionage charges are also being considered as surveillance equipment including a "drone" was found in their hotel room. However, according to the information available to Amnesty International, John Greyson and Tarek Loubani are yet to be formally charged and the accusations remain those stated above.

Name: Tarek Loubani and John Greyson

Gender: m

Further information on UA: 248/13 Index: MDE 12/057/2013 Issue Date: 2 October 2013