

URGENT ACTION

THREE AIDES MOVED TO UNKNOWN LOCATION

Three of Mohamed Morsi's aides were taken from the military facility they were held in to an unknown location on the evening of 17 December. Two other aides, Essam al-Haddad and Ayman Ali, are still held incommunicado. All five have been arbitrarily detained since 3 July in conditions that amount to enforced disappearance.

The Egyptian security forces transferred **Khaled al-Qazzaz**, **Ayman al-Serafy** and **Abdelmeguid Mashali** to an unknown location on the evening of 17 December, Khaled al-Qazzaz's wife told Amnesty International. The men's families were not told where they had been taken, or why. The families received unconfirmed information that the three men had been transferred to Tora Maximum Security Prison, unofficially known as "*al-Aqrab*" (the Scorpion). The remaining two aides, **Essam al-Haddad** and **Ayman Ali**, are still held incommunicado. Their lawyers told Amnesty International that they had gone to the Supreme State Security Prosecutor's Office in Nasr City, an area of Cairo, to ask about the three men but had not been given any information.

The five men's families have tried to appoint lawyers to represent them, but have been denied this right. In Essam al-Haddad's case, lawyers told Amnesty International that the Alexandria notary public office had informed them on 12 December that there were instructions from the Ministry of Justice not to give any lawyer power of attorney to represent him.

State media reports claimed on 18 December that the National Security Department within the Ministry of Interior had arrested the three Morsi aides transferred on 17 December at a flat in Heliopolis, Cairo, and sent them to the Supreme State Security Prosecutor's Office for questioning. However, the reports conflict markedly with the fact that the three men have actually been held incommunicado since 3 July. The three men risk facing trumped-up charges, after being held incommunicado for more than five months.

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

- Urging the authorities to disclose immediately the whereabouts of all of Mohamed Morsi's five aides;
- Calling on them to grant them access immediately to their families, lawyers and doctors;
- Urging them to release Mohamed Morsi's five aides unless they are charged promptly with recognizably criminal offences and tried before civilian courts, in full compliance with international fair trial guarantees;
- Calling on them to ensure anybody charged and ordered detained is held in a lawful place of detention;
- Calling on them to protect all those deprived of their liberty from torture and other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 30 JANUARY 2014 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
+202 2 291 6227

Email: mmc@afmic.gov.eg
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 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 fourth update of UA 196/13. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/065/2013/en

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The five aides were arrested after Mohamed Morsi was ousted by the army chief on 3 July and have been detained incommunicado ever since. They have been denied access to their lawyers and families, and Amnesty International considers their detention conditions to amount to enforced disappearance.

The authorities have continued their sweeping crackdown on supporters of deposed president 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 to disperse protesters gathered in support of 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 Arabic word for "fourth" and the first part of the name of the area where most protesters died, Rabaa al-Adawiya.

Thousands of Egyptians took to the streets on 30 June to call on President Mohamed Morsi to step down. It was the start of a new wave of protests against his rule. The protests had been sparked by the Tamarud (Rebellion) movement, which had collected a petition calling on the president to resign, and were backed by a coalition of opposition leaders. Over the next few days, many of the president's supporters also took to the streets to stage counter-protests. Many of the protests saw clashes between the president's supporters and opponents.

After Mohamed Morsi was ousted, the authorities held him without charge until late July, when a judge formally detained him on accusations that he had collaborated with Hamas during the 2011 uprising. The authorities have not announced the results of the inquiry. On 19 August, the Public Prosecution also ordered his detention as part of the investigation into the clashes in December 2012. European Union and African Union representatives visited Mohamed Morsi in detention in late July, but the authorities did not formally reveal his whereabouts until 4 November, when state media reported his transfer to Borg al-Arab Prison in Alexandria.

The security forces have arrested thousands of Morsi's supporters, including prominent leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood and its political party, the Freedom and Justice Party. They include the Muslim Brotherhood's former General Guide (supreme leader), Mohamed Mahdi Akef; General Guide Mohamed Badie; Deputy General Guides Khairat al-Shater and Rashad Bayoumi; the head of the Freedom and Justice Party, Saad al-Katatni; and Muslim Brotherhood lawyer Abdelmonim Abdelmaqsud. They are believed to be held in Tora Maximum Security Prison, south of Cairo.

Some members or supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood might have been involved in inciting or participating in violence. However, Amnesty International is concerned that others are being pursued solely for their membership or support of the Muslim Brotherhood, and their peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

Names: Ayman Ali; Khaled al-Qazzaz; Essam al-Haddad; Abdelmeguid Mashali; Ayman al-Serafy
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 196/13 Index: MDE 12/079/2013 Issue Date: 19 December 2013