

URGENT ACTION

EGYPTIAN PROTESTER DENIED MEDICAL CARE

Mahmoud Mohamed Amin is currently in detention and after taking part in a protest in Cairo on 4 May. During the 2011 uprising he received an injury to the face from shotgun pellets, resulting in nerve damage which causes him severe pain in the face. He has not received adequate medical care while in detention. A possible prisoner of conscience, he may face an unfair trial before a military court.

On 4 May 2012, **Mahmoud Mohamed Amin** was arrested by military forces near Al-Nour Mosque, Cairo, after troops violently dispersed protesters at Abbaseya Square near the Ministry of Defence building. He participated in the protest alongside hundreds of others to protest against military rule and condemn the killing of protesters two days earlier by men dressed in civilian clothes in the same square.

Prior to Mahmoud Mohamed Amin's arrest, men in plain clothes chased and beat protesters in order to support efforts by the military forces to disperse protesters. A friend of Mahmoud Mohamed Amin said he was trying to find a way for them to leave the square safely but he was caught. Mahmoud Mohamed Amin reportedly told his friend that he was assaulted by the men in civilian clothes causing cuts to his head, side and leg before seeking help from a nearby paratrooper. The paratrooper initially pushed Mahmoud Mohamed Amin away and, together with military police officials, then beat him over the head. Mahmoud Mohamed Amin told them he was undergoing surgery for his medical condition but they continued to beat him and verbally abuse him.

On 5 May, Mahmoud Mohamed Amin was referred to the Military Prosecutor along with around 300 other protesters. The Military Prosecution issued him with a 15-day preventive detention order. He was reportedly charged with protesting in a military area, assaulting military staff and attacking military buildings, obstructing traffic and taking part in a "league". His detention order was renewed for another 15 days on 19 May to be spent in Cairo Prison, south of Cairo. Prison officials refused to pass on medicine (pain killers) to him from a friend. On 20 May, he joined a hunger strike with nearly a hundred other detainees from the same protest, in addition to detainees from previous Cairo protests. The hunger strikers are calling for their release and for military trials of civilians to be halted.

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

- Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Mahmoud Mohamed Amin if he has been arrested solely for peacefully exercising his right to legitimate freedom of assembly;
- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to allow Mahmoud Mohamed Amin to receive adequate medical care for his medical condition and for the injuries he sustained during his arrest;
- Urging the authorities to stop all investigations by the military prosecution in relation to his arrest and to refer him to the ordinary civilian judiciary through the office of the public prosecutor.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 JULY 2012 TO:

Leader Supreme Council of the Armed Forces

Field Marshal Muhammad Tantawi
Ministry of Defence, Cairo, Egypt

Fax: +202 279 580 48 (May be switched off after office hours GMT+2)

Salutation: Dear Field Marshal

Minister of Interior

Mohamed Ibrahim Youssef Ahmed
Ministry of Interior

Cairo,

Egypt

Fax: +202 2 795 9494; +202 2 794 5529; or

+202 2 796 0682

Salutation: Your Excellency

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.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mahmoud Mohamed Amin lost the sight in his right eye after he sustained injuries from shotgun pellets to his face from riot police in Tahrir Square when he participated in the first day of Egypt's uprising on 25 January 2011. He registered his case with the official body supporting the "injured of the revolution" and has been receiving treatment for his eye as well as to ease the sharp shock-like pain caused by the damaged nerves on the right side of his face (facial neuralgia). He later underwent surgery sometime before 24 April 2012 and was due to have a second operation two weeks later but he was arrested before this could take place.

Amnesty International interviewed Mahmoud Mohamed Amin in hospital on 8 February 2011 and has mentioned his injury in its fact-finding report on the 2011 uprising entitled *Egypt Rises: Killings, detentions and torture in the "25 January Revolution"*.

At least 300 people were arrested on 4 May 2012 in the protest in Cairo's Abbaseya neighbourhood in Abbaseya Square near the Ministry of Defence. Around 100 now still in detention facing military prosecution and risk ill-treatment in detention. Amnesty International issued an urgent action on behalf of the detainees on 11 May (UA: 131/12:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/015/2012/en>).

Hundreds of people were injured when military forces violently dispersed the demonstration on 4 May. One soldier was reportedly killed in the clashes that followed. Military police are reported to have arrested protestors at random. During the demonstration thousands of people protested against military rule and the killing on 2 May 2012 of protesters around the Defence Ministry.

Military courts have jailed thousands of ordinary Egyptians since the 2011 "25 January Revolution" after unfair trials. These courts lack independence and impartiality, and defendants are denied an effective opportunity to appeal against their conviction and sentence to a higher tribunal. In line with international law, Amnesty International opposes the trial of civilians by military courts. Such trials violate the right to a fair and public hearing before a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law, as guaranteed in Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Egypt is a state party. While there are reports that many individuals serving sentences imposed after military trials were released after being retried, thousands remain in prison, among them several children being held in high security adult prisons.

Name: Mahmoud Mohamed Amin

Gender: Male

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