

# URGENT ACTION

## MORE ACTIVISTS DETAINED IN EGYPT

**Three members of a leading Egyptian human rights organization were detained in Cairo on 3 February 2011 by the Egyptian security forces. They are currently being held incommunicado and are at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.**

The staff members of the Egyptian Centre for Human Rights (ECHR) were reportedly arrested in Bulaq Abou El-'Ela, in central Cairo, at around 13:00. At the time of their arrest they were buying blankets for anti-Mubarak protesters who intended to stay the night at Tahrir Square. At around 16:00 they called the director of the ECHR saying they were detained in Al-Azbakiya police station on charge of supporting the anti-Mubarak protesters in Tahrir square.

Their detention coincided with a wave of arrests of human rights activists and journalists by military police and other Egyptian security forces, targeting both Egyptians and foreign nationals. Seven political activists were reportedly arrested on the night of 3 February 2011 after meeting with opposition figurehead Mohamed El-Baradei. Ahmed Helmi, a lawyer inquiring about them, at Haram Police Station in Cairo was also subsequently arrested. Amnesty International has also received reports that a group of six Egyptian activists belonging to the 6 April Movement, the Youth of Justice and Liberty, the National Association for Change and the Gabha Party were also arrested yesterday evening.

The Egyptian authorities have not disclosed where those detained in the crackdown, including the ECHR staff, are being held and their families and legal representatives have not been able to secure access to them. Amnesty International considers that if the detained ECHR staff members and reform activists have been arrested solely because of their activism or their human rights work, they would be prisoners of conscience who should be released immediately and unconditionally.

The ECHR is a core member of an alliance of 61 Egyptian non-governmental organizations which have been responding to the continued unrest and who have been calling for President Mubarak to step down from power.

### **PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in English, Arabic or your own language:**

- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release the three detained members of the ECHR as they are prisoners of conscience, held for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association;
- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all others detained in relation to their peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression;
- Urging the Egyptian authorities to immediately disclose the whereabouts of those detained and to allow them immediate access to their family members, lawyers of their choice, and to ensure that they are protected from all forms of torture or other ill-treatment.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 18 MARCH 2011 TO:**

Vice President

H.E. Omar Suleiman  
'Abdine Palace  
Cairo, Egypt  
Fax: +202 2 390 1998/ 795 8016

Minister of Defence

H.E. Field Marshal Muhammad  
Tantawi  
Ministry of Defence  
23 Al Khalifa Al Ma'moun Street  
Cairo, Egypt  
Fax: +202 2 291 6227  
Email: [mod@idsc.gov.eg](mailto:mod@idsc.gov.eg);  
[mmc@afmic.gov.eg](mailto:mmc@afmic.gov.eg) ; [mod@afmic.gov.eg](mailto:mod@afmic.gov.eg)

Director of Military Judiciary

Major-General Ahmed Abd Allah  
Military Judicial Department  
Cairo, Egypt  
Fax: +202 2 402 4468 / +202 2  
411 3452 (ask for fax)/+202 2 412  
0980 (ask for fax)

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** Check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.:

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Human rights defenders in Egypt have continued to report the “disappearance” of people without a trace, raising fears that they have been arrested and continue to be detained by armed forces. Human rights organizations in Egypt have reported that many families are searching for their relatives in vain, particularly as the regular police stations and judicial mechanisms, including the Public Prosecution, have been disrupted by the unrest.

On 3 February 2011 some 30 people were detained in the premises of the Hisham Mubarak Law Centre (HMLC) after military police took over the premises. Those detained included HMLC staff, volunteers for the Front to Defend Egyptian Protesters, Amnesty International staff and staff from Human Rights Watch.

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