

# URGENT ACTION

## DETAINEE BEATEN AND DENIED MEDICAL CARE

**Egyptian detained linguist, Mohamed Farid Farag Farrag, was beaten in prison in Egypt at the start of February and has not been given any medical care since. He is currently on a hunger strike to protest against his ill-treatment. He has been held without charge or trial since November 2007.**

Mohammed Farid Farag Farrag, a 38-year-old linguist, has been held in administrative detention in various prisons since his arrest in November 2007. He has never been under investigation or charged and the Egyptian Ministry of Interior has ignored seven orders by the courts to release him.

Since July 2009, he has been held at Walid al Gadid prison in Al Kharga city, in the Western Desert, over 600km from where his family live. At the beginning of February 2010, his cell was searched. He asked the guards to be careful with his books and as a result was badly beaten; put in a solitary cell and his books were destroyed. His family has told Amnesty International that he already had kidney and heart problems and has not been given adequate medical care for the head injuries he sustained when he was beaten. He is currently on hunger strike, demanding access to adequate medical care and to meet an official from the office of the public prosecutor to complain about his ill-treatment in prison. His family filed a complaint with the Public Prosecutor on 17 February 2010. On 24 February, inmates reportedly attempted to forced feed him under SSI officers' instructions.

Before he was transferred to Walid al Gadid prison, he was detained for six months in Abu Zaabal prison, in Cairo, where he was reportedly beaten and tortured. He was also kept with criminal convicted prisoners. Previously, he was detained at Tora prison, in Cairo for a year.

He was arrested at his house on 26 November 2007 at 2am, in the city of Qalag, Qalyoubiya Governorate, north of Cairo. State Security Investigations (SSI) officers broke the door of his house, pushed his wife around, took all computers in the house and took him away. For 60 days, his family had no information about where he was and inquired about his whereabouts at SSI offices, in prisons and police stations. His wife then received an anonymous phone call saying that he was held at Tora prison. He told his family that during the 60 days he was tortured with electric shocks, suspended, whipped and beaten by SSI officers. His arrest seems to be linked to his role in setting up an association called Jam'iat al-Furqan al-Khayriya (Koran Charitable Association), created to teach children the Koran. He had requested authorisation to form the organization from the SSI office in his district and the organization was registered at the Ministry of Social Solidarity just before his arrest in 2007.

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

- Urging the Egyptian authorities to provide Mohamed Farid Farag Farrag with immediate access to medical care;
- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to promptly and effectively investigate the allegations of torture and other ill-treatment of Mohamed Farid Farag Farrag;
- Urging the Egyptian authorities to implement the court decisions ordering the release Mohamed Farid Farag Farrag.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 APRIL 2010 TO:**

Minister of the Interior  
 Habib Ibrahim El Adly  
 Ministry of the Interior  
 25 El Sheikh Rihan Street  
 Bab al-Louk, Cairo  
 Egypt  
 Fax: +20 22 796 0682  
 Email: moi@idsc.gov.eg  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Prosecutor General  
 Abd El-Megeed Mahmoud  
 Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali  
 Ramses Street, Cairo  
 Egypt  
 Fax: +20 22 577 4716  
**Salutation: Dear Counsellor**

**And copies to:**  
Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign  
 Affairs for Human Rights  
 Wael Abu al-Magd  
 Human Rights and International  
 Humanitarian and Social Affairs  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt  
**Fax: +20 22 574 9713**

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

**AMNESTY  
 INTERNATIONAL**



# URGENT ACTION

## PRISONER BEATEN AND DENIED MEDICAL CARE

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A state of emergency and emergency legislation has been in force in Egypt almost continuously since 1967. The current state of emergency has been in force continuously since 1981. The state of emergency has been renewed regularly without any proper review and is in breach of international law, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In May 2008 the state of emergency was renewed once again for a further two years, despite repeated calls by human rights groups for it to be lifted.

Under the Emergency Law, administrative detention orders are issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Interior. Detainees are entitled to lodge a complaint against their detention to a Supreme (Emergency) State Security Court, which may issue an order for their release, against which the Ministry of Interior may appeal. If the Ministry appeals, the complaint is then examined by another Supreme (Emergency) State Security Court. If this court also orders the detainee's release, the Ministry of Interior is required to comply and to free the detainee.

In practice, however, when such release orders are issued by the courts, the detaining authorities transfer detainees secretly to new places of detention, such as local police stations or State Security Investigations (SSI) premises in Cairo or elsewhere, and keep them in custody until a new detention order is issued by the Minister of Interior, on the false grounds that the detainee was released but immediately returned to criminal or terrorist activities and was then rearrested.

Since his arrest, Mohamed Farid Farag Farrag has been detained under a succession of administrative detention orders issued by the Ministry of the Interior. He was not released despite seven court decisions ordering his release.

Thousands of people held without charge or trial under orders issued by the Interior Ministry, are languishing in Egypt's jails in degrading or inhumane conditions. Some have been held for more than a decade, including many whose release has been repeatedly ordered by courts.

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