

URGENT ACTION

HUNGER STRIKER HOSPITALIZED IN INTENSIVE CARE

Detained Egyptian-American national Mohamed Soltan was hospitalized on 7 October after his health deteriorated dramatically following an eight-month wet hunger strike.

Mohamed Soltan was taken to El Manial University Hospital in Cairo, the capital, after medical personnel at Tora Prison refused to be held liable for his deteriorating condition, his family told Amnesty International. He is now thought to be critically ill and has been passing out frequently as well as bleeding from his mouth and nose. He is being treated in an intensive care unit.

Mohamed Soltan was arrested in August 2013 as part of a sweeping crackdown on supporters of Egypt's ousted president, Mohamed Morsi. He is standing trial with 51 others on charges that include "funding the Rabaa al-Adawiya sit-in" and spreading "false information" to destabilize the security of Egypt. The trial will resume on 11 October 2014. Amnesty International considers that the charges against him do not constitute a recognizable criminal offence.

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

- Urging the Egyptian authorities to release Mohamed Soltan without delay, as under international standards the conduct he is accused of should not be considered a criminal offence;
- Calling on them to give Mohamed Soltan access to any medical attention he may require;
- Refrain from taking any punitive measures for his hunger strike.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 NOVEMBER 2014 TO:

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

President

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Office of the President
Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2 391 1441
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign
Affairs for Human Rights
Mahy Hassan Abdel Latif
Multilateral Affairs and International
Security Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2 574 9713
Email: Contact.Us@mfa.gov.eg

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 first update of UA 128/14. Further information:
www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/026/2014/en

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Egyptian-American national Mohamed Soltan began his hunger strike on 26 January 2014. Prison authorities later transferred him to solitary confinement in al-Aqrab maximum security prison as punishment. He is eating no food and only drinking water with sugar. According to his lawyer, in the past prison authorities have only transferred him to the prison medical unit when he lost consciousness and returned him to his cell when he came round.

Prior to his arrest, Mohamed Soltan had been working with a media committee which reported on violations by the security forces against supporters of Egypt's ousted president, Mohamed Morsi. On 14 August 2013, Mohamed Soltan was shot in his left arm in violence that erupted when security forces dispersed pro-Morsi protesters at Rabaa al-Adawiya Square in Cairo. The incident, in which hundreds of people died, led to a sweeping crackdown on Mohamed Morsi's supporters and the Muslim Brotherhood movement with which he was associated.

The security forces raided Mohamed Soltan's home in Cairo on 25 August 2013 to arrest his father, a Muslim Brotherhood figure. When they did not find Mohamed Soltan's father, security forces arrested him instead, as well as three of his friends who were visiting him following his surgery for his injured arm. Mohamed Soltan was transferred between Wadi al-Natrun Prison and Basateen and Manshiyet Nasser police stations where he was held for 15 days in small overcrowded cells.

Amnesty International learned that on 27 August 2013, Mohamed Soltan was taken to Wadi al-Natrun Prison, 120km from Cairo. Upon arrival, he was held with other prisoners in the police truck for around four hours. He reportedly had to walk to the prison between two rows of police officers, who beat him and the other prisoners as they walked to the prison gate. He has described it as being "beaten like chicken". The prisoners were then taken to a hall where they were told to take off their clothes and stay in their underwear. They were held handcuffed in this hall and were told to face the wall and that anyone who tried to look behind him would be beaten again. He stayed in this prison for three days before being taken back to Basateen Police Station for three weeks where the National Security Agency as well as state security prosecutors held investigations.

Eventually, Mohamed Soltan was taken to Istiqbal Tora Prison, where he was held until his later transfer to al-Aqrab maximum security prison, in a very small cell meant for solitary confinement with poor hygiene and ventilation. He had to undergo a medical procedure by a cellmate in his cell without anaesthetic or sterilization to remove the supporting metal pins from his arm, after the prison authorities refused to have him transferred to a hospital to receive proper medical care.

Scores of detainees have gone on hunger strike in the last few months in protest at poor prison conditions and what they say are politically motivated cases brought against them. Over 140 detainees were on hunger strike as of 8 October 2014, according information gathered by the group "Freedom for the Brave". Many activists outside of detention have also taken part in solidarity hunger strikes.

Name: Mohamed Soltan

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 128/14 Index: MDE 12/054/2014 Issue Date: 8 October 2014