

URGENT ACTION

MOHAMED SOLTAN RELEASED, RECOVERING IN THE U.S.
Egyptian-American activist Mohamed Soltan was released from prison and deported to the United States on 30 May, after spending one year and nine months in jail in Egypt.

Speaking to Amnesty International by video conference from the U.S. Mohamed Soltan said: "I want to thank you all so much. I'm so grateful for everything that you have done."

The 27-year-old activist also said that he has suffered no permanent organ damage, and his digestive system and sleep pattern are slowly recovering. "I'm getting there, step-by-step, slowly but surely."

Mohamed Soltan's health sharply deteriorated after he began a more than year-long hunger strike to protest his imprisonment and poor prison conditions. He also suffered a pre-existing medical condition of pulmonary embolisms, a blockage in the pulmonary artery that carries blood from the heart to the lungs.

Prison authorities denied him sustained medical care during his confinement. They also placed him in solitary confinement in a maximum security prison as punishment for his hunger strike.

Mohamed Soltan was sentenced to life in prison in April 2015 after being charged with funding a protest sit-in and spreading "false information" to destabilize the country. Such "crimes" are not recognized as criminal offences under international human rights law and standards. Mohamed Soltan was charged after security forces raided his home in Cairo on 25 August 2013 looking for his father, Salah Soltan, a Muslim Brotherhood figure. The security forces arrested Mohamed Soltan and three of his friends when they could not find his father.

The U.S. government criticized the April verdict and appealed for Mohamed Soltan's release on humanitarian grounds. After his sentencing, the activist relinquished his Egyptian citizenship, which paved the way for his release under a legal decree that gives Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi the ability to exile foreign citizens convicted of crimes.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals. No further action is required.

This is the third update of UA 128/14. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/1441/2015/en/>

Name: Mohamed Soltan

Gender m/f: m