

URGENT ACTION

JAILED ACTIVIST DENIED URGENT MEDICAL CARE

Mostafa Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed has been referred by the Tora Prison doctor to the prison hospital for an X-ray after chest pains, but this has not been done. He and the four other jailed activists have appealed, and will hear the verdict on 27 January.

Activist **Mostafa Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed** has problems with his coronary artery and a heart valve, according to a prison doctor, his brother told Amnesty International. The doctor referred him to the Tora Prison hospital for an X-ray, but this has not been done, Mostafa told his brother during a prison visit on 17 January. In December, Mostafa and four other activists were sentenced to two years in prison, for protesting. There is no physical evidence proving that they were at the alleged protest, according to the defence lawyers.

Mostafa Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed, **Ahmed Said**, **Karim Khaled Fathy**, **Mohamed Abdel-Hamid**, and **Gamila Seryel-Dain** lodged an appeal, which was heard on 13 January at Cairo's Abdeen Appeals Court. A delegation from the German embassy and the European Union Delegation monitored the trial. Ahmed Said had been working as a doctor in Germany, and was only in Egypt on holiday when he was arrested.

The four male activists were arrested on 19 November 2015. Ahmed Said was tortured with electric shocks during the National Security interrogation on the day of his arrest, his family said. The male activists had been arrested in various locations across Cairo. The one female activist, Gamila Seryel-Dain, was arrested on 22 November after she brought food to detainees, according to her family.

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

- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to ensure that Mostafa Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed is given the medical attention he requires;
- Calling on them to ensure the verdict and sentences handed down to these five people (naming them) are quashed, and they are released immediately, because some of the charges against them, such as assembling without a permit, violate protected human rights, while others, such as disrupting traffic, for which they were convicted, were unfounded;
- Urging them to order a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, and ensure those responsible are brought to justice in a fair trial without resort to the death penalty.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 MARCH 2016 TO:

National Council for Human Rights

President

Mohamed Fayek

National Council for Human Rights

69 Giza St. – next to the Saudi Embassy

Cairo, Egypt

Fax: +202 3762 4852

Fax: +202 3762 4229

Email: Nchr@nchr.org.eg

Twitter handle: @nchregypt

Salutation: Dear Mr Fayek

Justice Minister

Ahmed El-Zend

Lazoughly Square

Ministry of Justice

Downtown, Cairo, Egypt

Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:

Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign

Affairs for Human Rights

Mahy Hassan Abdel Latif

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt

Email: Contact.Us@mfa.gov.eg

Twitter: @MfaEgypt

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 second update of UA 294/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/3169/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Medical neglect by prison authorities is an issue that Egyptian activists and human rights organizations have increased their campaigning on over the last year, as reports of deaths in custody have become more frequent. According to the Egyptian NGO El Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence, there were 137 reported deaths in custody in 2015, of which 81 were due to medical neglect. Their research was based on media reports.

The five activists attended the second hearing of their appeal at the Abdeen Appeals Court on 13 January. The first session was held on 30 December and was delayed to allow defence lawyers more time to prepare the case. According to defence lawyers, however, the case against them is based solely on a single National Security officer's report of his investigations.

According to his report, the five activists took part in a protest at the intersection of Cairo's Mohamed Mahmoud and Mohamed Farid streets with more than 40 people, which caused obstruction to traffic and presented a threat to the security of citizens. Defence lawyers, however, obtained a report by the Ministry of Traffic, which said the Ministry had received no complaints about protests or disruption to traffic in the area where the protest had supposedly taken place.

Ahmed Said was tortured during the National Security investigations on the day he was arrested, according to his family. They said he was given electric shocks, beaten and had his hands burned with cigarettes. Mostafa Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed also had cigarette burns on his hands, his family said. The authorities have not officially recorded these allegations or looked into them, according to defence lawyers. As well as being a surgeon, Ahmed Said is a well-known poet who has been on Egypt's national television to recite his works. He volunteered as a doctor during the Mohamed Mahmoud clashes in 2011, treating injured protesters.

On 19 November 2015, the day the four male activists were arrested at various locations in Cairo, the security forces had been present in large numbers throughout the city, according to the men's relatives. Ahmed Said and Mostafa Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed were arrested by police officers while leaving a café, and Karim Khaled Fathy and Mohamed Abdel Hamid while walking in the street.

Less than a month after their arrest, on 13 December, the five were convicted by the Abdeen Misdemeanours Court of protesting, while blocking the road and disrupting traffic, violating the 2013 Protest Law, which arbitrarily restricts the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly guaranteed by international human rights law and Egypt's Constitution.

The male activists were transferred to the 15 May Prison a day after the verdict. They were put in a disciplinary room for two weeks where there was no sunlight, their families said. Ahmed Said went on a hunger strike to protest the poor conditions. They were transferred on 30 December to Scorpion Prison after the families submitted complaints to the authorities. They were transferred on condition that Ahmed Said signs a paper at 15 May Prison saying he had not been tortured and had ended the hunger strike, his family said. He had also been told they would be transferred to the Abdeen Police station, where conditions are better. However, after signing it, they were sent to Scorpion, where they are held in separate cells with jihadists.

Gamila Seryel-Dain had been visiting detainees in two separate Cairo police stations, the Abdeen Police station and Qasr el-Nil police station, to give them food. She was arrested on 22 November at the Qasr el-Nil police station and accused of inciting protests. Four days later, a judge ordered her to be released on bail. After she was released, the Abdeen Prosecution ordered her to be detained, on trumped-up charges.

Names: Mostafa Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed, Ahmed Said, Karim Khaled Fathy, Mohamed Abdel-Hamid, Gamila Seryel-Dain
Gender m/f: All male except Gamila Seryel-Dain

