

# URGENT ACTION

## COURT RENEWS ACTIVISTS' DETENTION FOR 15 DAYS

**Dr Taher Mokhtar and two other activists have had their detention renewed a second time, for a further 15 days. They are facing baseless charges and remain at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.**

**Dr Taher Mokhtar** is understood to have been beaten by police on 7 February. He, **Hossameldine Hammad** and **Ahmed Mohamed Hassan** will be detained for a further 15 days, the Abdeen Misdemeanour Court ruled on 14 February. Their detention had been renewed previously for 15 days on 31 January, to allow further investigations by the Public Prosecutor.

The three activists had been arrested on 14 January by plainclothes police, at their apartment in central Cairo. They are being detained on accusations that include "being in possession of leaflets calling for changing the constitution and overthrowing the regime", "inciting protests" and "participating in protests and violence since 25 January 2011".

They are currently being detained in the Investigations Prison of Cairo's Tora Prison complex. They were initially in a holding cell for 13 days for medical check-ups. Once the check-ups were complete, unlike his fellow detainees, Dr Taher Mokhtar was not transferred to an ordinary cell. When he enquired as to why he was not being transferred along with the other detainees, he was beaten by police. He was allowed to join the others again after police officers discovered he was a member of Egypt's Doctors' Syndicate. Two days later, the Doctors' Syndicate filed a complaint with the Public Prosecutor and Interior Minister asking for an investigation into the treatment of Dr Taher Mokhtar. The Syndicate also called on the Egyptian authorities to allow one of their doctors to visit him.

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

- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to order prompt, independent and impartial investigations into reports that Dr Taher Mokhtar was beaten in custody and bring those responsible to justice;
- Calling on them to halt the criminal investigation of the three activists (naming them) on accusations that stem from the peaceful exercise of their human rights and release them immediately;
- Calling on them to ensure the three activists are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 APRIL 2016 TO:

#### Public Prosecutor

Nabil Sadek  
Office of the Public Prosecutor  
Madinat Al-Rihab  
New Cairo, Egypt  
**Salutation: Dear Counsellor**

#### President

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi  
Office of the President  
Al Ittihadia Palace  
Cairo, Egypt  
Fax: +202 2 391 1441  
Email: p.spokesman@op.gov.eg  
Twitter: @AlsisiOfficial  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### **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  
Fax: +202 2574 9713  
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 first update of UA 15/16. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/3251/2016/en/>

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



# URGENT ACTION

## COURT RENEWS ACTIVISTS' DETENTION FOR 15 DAYS

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Early in the afternoon of 14 January, plainclothes officers from Abdeen police station raided a central Cairo flat shared by Taher Mokhtar, Hossameldine Hammad and Ahmed Mohamed Hassan. They asked to search the apartment, in what they said was a routine check on flats in the vicinity of Cairo's Tahrir Square, which is near the Interior Ministry headquarters, before the "25 January Revolution" anniversary, when street protests were anticipated. Lawyer Mokhtar Mounir Himidah happened to be in the area and one of the three men contacted him. When he arrived at the apartment, and asked if the officers had a search warrant, they said they did not. They searched the apartment nevertheless, and took three mobile phones, laptops, papers written for Egypt's Doctors' Syndicate and other items. They also took the lawyer's identification cards, photocopied them and returned them.

National Security officers interrogated the three at Abdeen Police station for nine hours without a lawyer present. Lawyers were prevented from gaining access to the minutes of the interrogation. They drew up a report, instead, which they made available to the lawyer at 3am on 15 January, at the police station. The detainees now stood accused of: being in possession of leaflets that call for changing the constitution and overthrowing the regime; holding meetings in their apartment to incite protests on the 25 January 2016; participating in protests and violence since 25 January 2011 (without making reference to any specific event), and taking advantage of individual acts by police officers to incite people to change the constitution and destroy state facilities. A search warrant was also made available to the defence lawyer, which he believes may have been dated 14 January 2016 retrospectively.

Their pre-trial detention was renewed for 15 days on 31 January, and again on 14 February, by the Abdeen Misdemeanour Court. Fourteen Egyptian human rights organizations have signed an appeal for Taher Mokhtar to be released. Egypt's Doctors' Syndicate has been particularly active in campaigning for his release. Taher Mokhtar is highly regarded as an activist and Syndicate member working for detainees' right to healthcare, as well as the rights of workers, minorities and in particular refugees. Egypt's Doctors' Syndicate, officially called the Egyptian Medical Syndicate, is an independent union of doctors working for the rights of Egypt's doctors and advocating for the health of citizens and detainees.

Names: Taher Mokhtar, Hossameldine Hammad, Ahmed Mohamed Hassan  
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 15/16 Index: MDE 12/3465/2016 Issue Date: 19 February 2016