

URGENT ACTION

DETENTION ORDER RENEWED AGAIN, ILLEGALLY

Prisoner of conscience Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein has had his detention renewed for another 45 days. He has now spent more than two years in pre-trial detention, against Egypt's own laws. The 20-year-old-student was arrested for wearing a T-shirt with an anti-torture logo, and a scarf with a logo of the "25 January Revolution".

Prisoner of conscience **Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein** had his detention renewed by a Cairo court for another 45 days on 7 February, his family have said. He has now spent more than two years in pre-trial detention, and is being held illegally. Under Egypt's Criminal Procedures Law (Article 143), if a detainee facing accusations that could lead to life imprisonment or the death penalty has not been sentenced within the detention limit of two years, they must be released immediately. Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein is among more than 700 detainees across the country held for more than two years without being sentenced.

Fourteen Egyptian human rights organisations published a statement on 9 February calling for Mahmoud's release. His lawyers have filed a complaint with the Supreme Judicial Council, the highest judicial body in Egypt, to object to the 7 February detention renewal order, the statement says. The student, who turned 20 in prison earlier this year, was arrested on 25 January 2014 for wearing a T-shirt with the name and logo of the "Nation Without Torture Campaign" and a scarf with a logo of the "25 January Revolution". He has alleged that he "confessed" under torture, which included electric shocks to his testicles, during interrogation by a National Security officer, and has been beaten several times in detention. He is being held in Cairo's Tora Prison complex.

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

- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to release Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein immediately, as he is a prisoner of conscience imprisoned solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- Calling on them to ensure that he is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated;
- Urging them to order a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into his allegations of torture and ensure that those suspected of responsibility are brought to justice in a fair trial without resort to the death penalty.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 MARCH 2016 TO:

Public Prosecutor

Nabil Sadek
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Madinat al-Rehab
New Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

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
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
Arab Republic of 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 sixth update of UA 286/14. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/2889/2015/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 25 January 2014, the third anniversary of the uprising in Egypt, Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein had joined a protest against the Muslim Brotherhood and military rule at the Journalists' Syndicate in downtown Cairo. Within minutes of the protesters gathering, the security forces started to disperse the protest with tear gas. Some protesters sought to escape towards Talaat Harb street, but Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein headed home by bus.

The bus stopped at a police checkpoint in the El-Marg neighbourhood, where he lives. Police officers stopped the bus and arrested Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein. According to the student's family, he asked why he was being arrested but five plainclothes police officers beat him and dragged him by his legs to a small police station nearby. They continued beating Mahmoud for 30 minutes. He was then taken to El-Marg police station, where he was beaten upon arrival for around an hour, a practice known as "welcoming parties" in Egyptian police stations and prisons.

Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein was later put in an overcrowded cell at the police station with some 50 suspects in a cell designed to hold 16. His cellmates beat and threatened him, on instruction from police officers for about three hours. He was then taken to National Security officers in the police station for interrogation. A National Security officer said he would dictate a "confession" and videotape him. Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein refused and said that he would not confess to crimes he had not committed. He was then beaten and given electric shocks to his back, hands and testicles. After four hours of this, Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein told the National Security officer that he would "confess" to whatever he asked to stop the torture. The National Security officer videotaped him "confessing" to possessing explosives, receiving money to demonstrate and taking part in an unauthorized protest.

Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein was taken on 26 January 2014 to the State Security Prosecutor in New Cairo, a public prosecutor office meant to investigate offences related to "National Security". He was questioned, and denied all the accusations and said he had been tortured and coerced to "confess" before the State Security Prosecutor, but he was not referred for a forensic examination and no investigation into his torture allegations was ordered. Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein stayed in El-Marg police station for six days, after which he was transferred to Abu Zaabal Prison, where he was beaten upon arrival. In May 2014, he was transferred to the Cairo Appeals Prison where was beaten on more than one occasion. Mahmoud was moved to Cairo's Tora Prison complex on 25 July 2014. Mahmoud Hussein's family complained to the Public Prosecutor's office about his torture and beatings, but they say no genuine investigations have been carried out.

Name: Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 286/14 Index: MDE 12/3422/2016 Issue Date: 10 February 2016