

URGENT ACTION

EGYPTIAN PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTER RELEASED

George Ramzi Nakhla was released on 25 March 2012. He reported that he was ill-treated by security forces while in detention and was not given adequate medical treatment.

George Ramzi Nakhla, a member of "6 April Youth" movement, told Amnesty International that Central Security Forces (riot police) beat him during his arrest on 6 February in Mohamed Mahmoud Street, the road leading to the Ministry of the Interior.

He was taken to the Ministry of Interior, and while on the way, he said riot police tied his arms and legs to the back of a riot police armoured vehicle and slowly dragged him while security forces beat him with batons. At the Ministry of Interior, he said an officer beat him on his back, his eye and his head with a rifle and kicked and slapped him on the face. George Ramzi Nakhla, as well as 13 other men, was forced to sit down in a squat position for several hours. When he asked to be either released or interrogated he said he was further beaten and given electric shocks at the front and at the back of his leg. He also said that security forces constantly insulted him, mocked his involvement with the "25 January Revolution", and made sexual gestures at him.

George Ramzi Nakhla was then transferred to the nearby Abdeen police station. He requested treatment for his injured arm due to the beating. He also requested that he be able to contact his family or friends. Both requests were denied. He was transferred to Tora prison, south of Cairo, where he said a security officer told him on arrival "Welcome to Guantanamo".

George Ramzi Nakhla told Amnesty International that several members of the armed forces were standing on both sides of the prison entrance beating arriving detainees. When he refused to get off the transfer vehicle for fear of being beaten, one of the military dragged him out by force and beat him with electric cables. George Ramzi Nakhla shared a 9m squared cell with 14 other detainees. They slept on a wet floor and without proper clothing during the cold night. He said that some nights they were awakened with cold water at around 3.30am and at 7am. He added that prison officials took photos of the detainees holding a black-board with their identification numbers then forced them to lick the chalk on the black-board to humiliate them.

After Amnesty International's Urgent Action on George Ramzi Nakhla, which he read about in a newspaper inside prison, he said that his treatment in prison improved. Although the public prosecution ordered his release on 22 March, George Ramzi Nakhla was actually released on 25 March 2012 after three days of hunger strike.

Thanks to all of those who took action on behalf of George Ramzi Nakhla. No further appeals from the network are required.

This is the first update of UA 56/12. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/008/2012/en>

Name: George Ramzi Nakhla
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 56/12 Index: MDE 12/010/2012 Issue Date: 18 April 2012