

# URGENT ACTION

## PRISONERS BEATEN, DENIED MEDICAL TREATMENT

**Amnesty International has received reports that guards in a prison in the Egyptian south western desert, Wadi Guedid, beat prisoners while conducting searches on 24 July. It is believed those injured during the searches and beatings have not received any medical care.**

The family of Abu el-Maati Ahmed Abu al-Arab learned that prison guards had beaten him with sticks and cables when they came to search his cell, reportedly breaking his leg. His family believe he is still in his cell and has not received any medical treatment. Abu el-Maati Ahmed Abu al-Arab had been arrested on 3 February as he was leaving Tahrir Square in Cairo. He was tried in a military court, charged with destroying public property, and was sentenced to five years in prison in a summary trial. Amnesty International opposes the trial of civilians by military courts.

When Mohamed Al Beheiry tried to visit his brother Amr Abdallah Al Beheiry in Wadi Guedid prison on 25 July, he was told that his brother was being transferred to another prison. He managed to see his brother and five others as they were being prepared for transfer. He told Amnesty International that one of the five was lying on a stretcher and having difficulties breathing. He said that the officer in charge of the transfer initially refused to take the man on the stretcher, saying he needed urgent medical assistance, but all the men were later placed in the truck, in handcuffs. The man on the stretcher was handcuffed to it and put into the truck. Prison guards later told Mohamed Al Beheiry that his brother was being taken to Wadi Natroun. When he expressed concern about the man on the stretcher, saying he should not be taken into the transfer truck, he was told that it was none of his business.

Lawyers told Amnesty International that the trip to Wadi Natroun Prison could take up to 48 hours as prisoners are transferred in a slow military train to north Cairo where they are transferred again to another truck to be taken to Wadi Natroun.

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

- Urging the Egyptian authorities to ensure the safety of detainees and prisoners and not to subject inmates of Wadi Guedid Prison to torture or other ill-treatment
- Urging them to ensure that all those injured receive adequate medical treatment without further delay as required in international law and standards;
- Calling on them to order an immediate, thorough, impartial and independent investigation into the 24 July beatings, and bring those found responsible to justice;
- Calling on them to disclose to the prisoners' families their whereabouts and allow all prisoners access to their families and lawyers.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 SEPTEMBER 2011 TO:**

#### Minister of Interior

Mansour Abdel Kerim Moustafa Essawy  
Ministry of Interior Affairs  
El Sheikh Rihan St.  
Cairo, Postal Code 11641  
Arab Republic of Egypt  
Fax: +20 22 795 9494,  
Email: [center@iscmi.gov.eg](mailto:center@iscmi.gov.eg)  
Salutation: Your Excellency

#### Prosecutor General

Abd el-Mageed Mahmoud  
Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali  
Ramses Street, Cairo  
Arab Republic of Egypt  
Fax: +20 22 577 4716  
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

#### **And copies to:**

Prison Administration  
Idarat al-Sujun  
al-Kolali street  
Ramsis, Cairo  
Arab Republic of Egypt  
Fax: +20 22 574 5561

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amr Abdallah Al Beheiry was convicted on 1 March 2011 by the Supreme Military Court of assaulting a public official on duty and breaking curfew, and sentenced to five years in prison in a summary trial. He, his cousin and other protesters were reportedly beaten with sticks and then arrested as military police and the army used excessive force to disperse a protest outside the Parliament in Cairo early in the morning of 26 February. Amr Abdallah Al Beheiry was released by the military police but was rearrested shortly afterwards, apparently because other protesters had filmed his injuries.

According to reliable sources, Amr Abdallah Al Beheiry and his cousin were beaten and tortured with electric shocks following their arrest in February.

Amnesty International has documented other instances where prison guards have used violence against prisoners in Egypt. Unrest began on 28 January in al-Qatta al-Gadeed when prisoners heard that prisoners had broken out or been freed from other prisons in Egypt and demanded that the prison authorities should also release them. When the authorities refused, riots spread in the prison. In response, prison guards are alleged to have used teargas against prisoners and excessive force, including lethal force using live ammunition. According to the Fact-Finding National Commission about 25 January Revolution, said the Prison Administration put the death toll among prisoners at 189 in addition to 263 injured, while four members of security forces died and 30 were injured.

Amnesty International also documented numerous cases of torture in detention during the protests, including by the army and the military police. Torture and other ill-treatment included beatings with sticks or whips, electric shocks, sometimes to sensitive parts of the body, the contortion of the body in stress positions for long periods, verbal abuse and threats of rape.

Many others besides Amr Abdallah Al Beheiry and Abu el-Maati Ahmed Abu al-Arab have been tried in military courts. The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces has said that at least 7,000 civilians have been tried in military courts since Mubarak stepped down. Amnesty International considers such trials to violate fundamental requirements of due process and fair trials.

Name:

Gender m/f:

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