

URGENT ACTION

BUSINESSMAN DETAINED, RISKS TORTURE

Businessman Mohammed Abdulwahab el-Sayed has been held incommunicado since 22 June 2009, putting him at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Mohammed Abdulwahab el-Sayed, 33, runs a mobile phone business, and was returning from a business trip to the United Arab Emirates when he was detained by the airport security services at Cairo International Airport. Two colleagues who were with him say he was detained at 7.30pm, and told to sign a document given to him by State Security Investigations (SSI) officers, falsely declaring that he had received his luggage and passport. At 2am he was driven away, handcuffed, by State Security Investigations (SSI) officers. His family have not heard from him since.

It is not known why Mohammed Abdulwahab el-Sayed was arrested and is now being detained. Security officials searched his shop two days before his arrest and took away his computer's hard drive, but his family were given a document from the Security Services of al-Dokahlia Governorate stating that he was not wanted for arrest.

The authorities have not revealed his whereabouts, though his family have made inquiries to the Ministry of the Interior and the Public Prosecutor. His mother also inquired at the SSI headquarters in Lazoghly, Cairo, and at the Security Department of the city of al-Mansoura, where he lives. He is believed to be held incommunicado by the SSI at an unknown location. Detainees held by the SSI are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment, especially when they are held incommunicado and at undisclosed locations.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in English, Arabic or your own language:

- urging the authorities to disclose Mohammed Abdulwahab el-Sayed's whereabouts immediately, and give him access to a lawyer of his choice, his family and any medical attention he may require;
- urging them to ensure that he is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated;
- urging them to release Mohammed Abdulwahab el-Sayed immediately and unconditionally, unless he is promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought to trial in proceedings that meet international standards for fair trial.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 SEPTEMBER TO:

Minister of Interior
Minister Habib Ibrahim el-Adly
Ministry of the Interior
25 Al-Sheikh Rihan Street
Bab al-Louk
Cairo, Egypt
Fax: +20 22 796 0682
Email: moi@idsc.gov.eg
Salutation: Your Dear Minister

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

And copies to:
Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs
for Human Rights
Wael Abu al-Magd
Human Rights and International Humanitarian
and Social Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil
Cairo, Egypt
Fax: +20 22 574 9713
Salutation: Dear Deputy Assistant Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

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

This is the Nth update of UA XXXXX.

Further information: www.amnesty.org/xxxxx

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The detention of Mohammed Abdulwahab el-Sayed fits a pattern of people being arrested at Cairo's airport or elsewhere and detained incommunicado for weeks by the security forces, during which time they are tortured or otherwise ill-treated. French national [NAME RETRACTED] was arrested at Cairo International Airport when he travelled to Egypt on 21 April 2009, tortured in SSI custody and then deported to France on 22 June 2009.

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