

URGENT ACTION

MAHMOUD HUSSEIN'S DETENTION ORDER EXTENDED

Prisoner of conscience Mahmoud Hussein is to remain in detention for another 45 days, a Cairo court ordered on 8 October. He is next due in court on 23 November, when a judge could either order his release or renew his detention.

Prisoner of conscience **Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein** is to remain in detention for another 45 days, a Cairo court ordered on 8 October. He has now been detained without charge for 21 months. He is next due in court on 23 November, when a judge could either order his release or renew his detention order. Under Egyptian law, the limit to pre-trial detention on charges that could lead to life imprisonment or the death penalty is two years.

Mahmoud Hussein was arrested on 25 January 2014 on a minibus, for wearing a T-shirt with the words and logo of the "Nation Without Torture Campaign" and a scarf with the logo of the "25 January Revolution". The then 18-year-old was on his way home after taking part in a protest. He was tortured into "confessing" to crimes he says he did not commit. In a letter to Amnesty International, dated 25 September 2015, he asked: "Will I be tried for the sake of a goal, or an idea, or a dream that so many of us have dreamed since the '25 January Revolution'?"

Prison guards at Cairo's Appeals Prison beat up Mahmoud Hussein on 14 July because he had moved his possessions. He is now held in Cairo's Tora Investigations Prison.

Please write immediately in Arabic or your own language:

- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to release Mahmoud Hussein immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, held solely for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of expression;
- Calling on them to ensure that he is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated while in detention;
- Urging them to order a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into his allegations of torture and ensure that anyone responsible is brought to justice in a fair trial without resort to the death penalty.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 30 NOVEMBER 2015 TO:

Public Prosecutor

Nabil Sadek
Office of the Public Prosecutor
New Cairo Court Complex
New Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2 638 1956
(switched off after office hours, GMT+2)
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
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 2 574 9713
Email: Contact.Us@mfa.gov.eg
Email: foreign.legalization@mfa.gov.eg

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 fourth update of UA 286/14. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE12/2347/2015/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mahmoud Hussein's pre-trial detention was last renewed on 26 August, two days after an irregularity in his case. The judge found that there was a period of days when Mahmoud Hussein was held in detention without a court order, and so renewed his detention to cover up for these days plus an additional 45 days.

He is a 19-year-old student, who has been tortured and otherwise ill-treated in detention. According to his family, on 14 July he was beaten up in Cairo's Appeals Prison by two prison guards who punched him in the stomach and slapped him on the face when he insisted on collecting his belongings after he was told he was being transferred to a different prison.

This was the second time Mahmoud Hussein had been beaten up in the Cairo Appeals Prison, according to his family. The first instance had been one year earlier. His family say they have filed complaints with the Public Prosecutor's Office about his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment. The office said it had opened an investigation into the complaints, but the family have not yet been informed of any findings, according to Mahmoud Hussein's brother and his lawyer. Mahmoud Hussein was moved to Cairo's Tora Prison on 25 July.

Mahmoud Hussein was arrested on 25 January 2014, the third anniversary of the "25 January Revolution", after attending a protest in central Cairo against the Muslim Brotherhood and military rule. He was on a bus on his way home when the security forces stopped the vehicle at a checkpoint in the north-eastern suburb of El Marg. Mahmoud Hussein was arrested for wearing a T-shirt with the "Nation Without Torture Campaign" logo and a scarf with the "25 January Revolution" logo.

Upon arrest, Mahmoud Hussein asked why he was being arrested but was then beaten by five plainclothes police officers who dragged him by his feet to a small police station nearby, according to his family and his lawyer. They beat Mahmoud Hussein for 30 minutes, and then took him to El Marg police station, where they continued beating him with their fists and batons for around an hour. This practice is known in Egyptian police stations and prisons as a "welcoming party".

Mahmoud Hussein was later put in a cell with around 50 other people, according to his lawyer. The cell, in the police station, is only designed to hold 16 detainees. His cellmates beat and threatened him, on the instructions of the police officers, for some three hours until he was taken to National Security officers in the police station for interrogation, according to Mahmoud Hussein's testimony to his lawyer and his family. A National Security officer told Mahmoud Hussein that he would dictate a "confession" and videotape him reading this aloud. Mahmoud Hussein refused and said he would not confess to crimes he had not committed. He was then beaten and given electric shocks for four hours. After this, he told the National Security officer that he would "confess" to whatever they asked him, to stop the torture. The National Security officer videotaped Mahmoud Hussein "confessing" to trumped-up accusations.

Mahmoud Hussein was taken for questioning the next day by the State Security Prosecution in New Cairo, which is meant to investigate offences related to national security. He denied all the accusations and said he had been tortured to make him "confess", but the prosecutor did not refer him for forensic examination or order any investigation into his torture allegations. Mahmoud Hussein stayed in El Marg police station for six days and was later transferred to Abu Zaabal Prison, where he was beaten upon arrival. In May 2014, he was transferred to the Cairo Appeal Prison. He is now at Cairo's Tora Prison.

Name: Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed Hussein
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 286/14 Index: MDE 12/2681/2015 Issue Date: 19 October 2015