

# URGENT ACTION

## EGYPTIAN PROTESTORS AT RISK OF ABUSE

**Egyptians protesting against poverty, corruption and police abuse and calling for the end of President Hosni Mubarak's rule are at risk of abuse and arbitrary arrest. Since 25 January 2011, at least 14 protestors have been killed by security forces and over a thousand people detained.**

Protests began in Cairo and other cities in Egypt on 25 January 2011, culminating in nationwide protests on 28 January after Friday prayers. In the last four days, at least 14 people have been killed in demonstrations which have been forcibly dispersed by the security forces. Scores of others have been injured. Many of those injured did not go to hospital for treatment for fear of being arrested.

According to lawyers and human right organizations in Egypt, over a thousand protestors have been detained by the Egyptian security forces. Many were beaten up by riot police and State Security Investigations officers during their arrest and beaten again once detained at Central Security camps. They had their mobile phones confiscated from them and those injured were denied adequate medical care. They were also denied immediate access to a lawyer.

In an attempt by the Egyptian authorities to scapegoat the Muslim Brotherhood, the authorities have also arrested eight members of the board of the banned organization, including Eissam Aryan and Mohamed Mursi, together with at least 20 senior officials from various governorates. The Ministry of Interior has accused them, together with National Association for Change and 6 April Movement, of stirring up the unrest. Mohamed ElBaradei, former head of the International Atomic Energy Agency and president of the National Association for Change, was prevented from marching on 28 January and ordered to remain at home. Many members of the association were arrested.

On 27 January 2011, the Public Prosecutor ordered the release on bail of some detainees. They have been charged with unauthorized gathering, assault on security forces, damaging public property and disrupting traffic. Others continue to be detained and are expected to appear before the prosecutor in the coming days. These charges have often been used by the authorities to curb freedom of assembly and deny Egyptians the right to peaceful assembly.

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

- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to rein in their forces and issue clear instructions that they should not use excessive or disproportionate force or resort to the use of fire arms unless when strictly necessary and to protect human life, in line with the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials;
- Urging them to uphold the human rights of demonstrators;
- Calling on them to investigate the killings and the abuses by the security forces when policing demonstrations;;
- Calling on the authorities to release or charge those detained with an internationally recognizably offence and try them in fair proceedings.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 MARCH 2011 TO:

Minister of Interior  
H.E. Mahmoud Wagdi  
Ministry of Interior  
25 El Sheikh Rihan Street  
Bab al-Louk, Cairo, Egypt.  
Fax: +20 22 796 0682  
Email: center@iscmi.gov.eg,  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Prosecutor General  
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  
Laila Bahaa Eldin  
Human Rights and International Humanitarian and Social Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Egypt  
**Fax: +20 22 574 9713**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** Check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Egypt has been under a state of emergency since 1981 and the authorities have used Emergency Law provisions to ban demonstrations and curb the rights to freedoms of expression, association and assembly as well as commit other human rights violations, including torture and other ill-treatment and unfair trials before military and emergency courts.

Over the last few years, a number of protests and unauthorized strikes took place by public and private sector workers to demand better wages and working conditions. Many have aired their grievances in protests in front of government buildings in Cairo. Some of these demonstrations were dispersed by security forces and media workers were barred or expelled from the areas where the sit-ins and protest were held.

For more information on restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly in Egypt, see Egypt: 'Shouting slogans into the wind': Human rights concerns ahead of the parliamentary elections, (Index: MDE 12/032/2010), 21 November 2010, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/032/2010/en>

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