

URGENT ACTION

COURT TO REVIEW KHALED AL-QAZZAZ'S DETENTION

A court is due to review the detention of Khaled al-Qazzaz on 17 December. The former presidential aide has yet to receive the surgery he needs for his neck injury and has now spent over 17 months in detention without charge or trial.

Courts have renewed **Khaled al-Qazzaz's** detention repeatedly, without charge or trial, despite his deteriorating health. A court is next due to review his detention on 17 December, after postponing the decision during two previous sessions. He needs surgery for spinal stenosis, a condition in which the space around the spine narrows and compresses the nerves, as well as herniated discs in his neck and lower back. His family have said he is suffering from severe pain in his neck and numbness and weakness in his hands and legs.

Khaled al-Qazzaz was transferred to a private hospital in Cairo on 26 October but is waiting for the medical procedures he needs to be approved.

Khaled al-Qazzaz has been detained since 3 July 2013, when he was arrested along with ousted president Mohamed Morsi and other members of the presidential team. He was held for five-and-a-half months in conditions that amounted to an enforced disappearance, and was transferred to al-'Aqrab ("The Scorpion") Maximum Security Prison in December 2013.

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

- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to give Khaled al-Qazzaz, urgently, access to the medical treatment he needs, and consider granting him medical leave;
- Calling on them to release Khaled al-Qazzaz unless he is promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence and tried before a civilian court in proceedings that are in line with international standards for fair trial, without recourse to the death penalty;
- Urging them to give him regular access to his legal representative and his family.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 22 JANUARY 2015 TO:

Public Prosecutor
Hesham Mohamed Zaki Barakat
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Supreme Court House, 1 "26 July" Road
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2 577 4716
+202 2 575 7165
(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
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:
Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign
Affairs for Human Rights
Mahy Hassan Abdel Latif
Multilateral Affairs and International
Security Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2 574 9713
Email: Contact.Us@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 first update of UA 195/14. Further information:
<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/041/2014/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Medical experts have warned that if he does not receive adequate treatment there is a risk that Khaled al-Qazzaz will permanently lose the use of his arms and legs and will also be left in constant pain.

Khaled al-Qazzaz served as President Morsi's foreign relations secretary and he also shaped the administration's policies on human rights and women. He is an Egyptian national who also holds permanent residence in Canada.

He featured in UA 196/13 and updates (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/079/2013/en>).

While Mohamed Morsi and his other aides are facing trial in a number of cases, the Public Prosecution has yet to charge Khaled al-Qazzaz with any criminal offence. Instead, courts have ordered his continued detention on a "precautionary" basis at the request of the Prosecution.

The Egyptian Code of Criminal Procedures (CCP) allows for individuals to be held in provisional detention without charge or trial for periods that can reach up to six months for alleged misdemeanours and an original time limit of 18 months for alleged felonies (Article 143 of the CCP).

However, Article 143 of the CCP was amended in September 2013 by Law 83 of 2013 to remove any time limit for provisional detention for crimes punishable by life imprisonment or death.

The decision allows courts to extend provisional detention indefinitely and so for suspects to be held without charge or trial indefinitely. In effect, this measure has reintroduced the reviled practice of administrative detention.

Khaled al-Qazzaz was transferred to al-'Aqrab Prison on 17 December 2013 after spending months secretly detained in a military detention facility. His detention conditions effectively amounted to an enforced disappearance, with the authorities concealing his whereabouts.

Name: Khaled al-Qazzaz

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 195/14 Index: MDE 12/068/2014 Issue Date: 11 December 2014