URGENT ACTION

EGYPTIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER DETAINED

Lawyer and human rights defender Malek Adly was arrested and ill-treated by Egyptian security forces on 5 May. He is a prisoner of conscience and one of hundreds of people detained in connection with protests in Cairo on 25 April.

Egyptian security forces arrested human rights defender **Malek Adly** on the evening of 5 May, while the lawyer was walking in the Cairo suburb of Maadi. His defence team said that the security forces took him to Maadi Police Station for questioning, where they beat and struck him with firearms, blindfolded and stripped him of his shirt.

Malek Adly was then transferred to the Shubra al-Khaimah Public Prosecution, where a prosecutor questioned him for over four hours. The Prosecution ordered his detention for 15 days, pending investigation into trumped-up charges that include "joining a group to obstruct the law", "spreading false rumours", "attempting to overthrow the government", and "using violence and force against National Security Agency officers".

Malek Adly's lawyers have formally complained to the authorities over his ill-treatment in detention. They have expressed their fears that the Prosecution may fabricate a narcotics charge against Malek Adly, because the Prosecution ordered he be tested for drugs and alcohol – despite the fact that they had considered him fit for questioning immediately after his arrest, and they did not question or charge him for drugs or alcohol possession.

A prosecutor had ordered Malek Adly's arrest ahead of calls for protests on 25 April against the government's decision to transfer control of two islands in the Red Sea to Saudi Arabia. Malek Adly is one of hundreds of people arrested around the protests. On 7 May, the Front for the Defence of Egyptian Protesters reported it knew of over 1,300 people arrested during the crackdown, at least 585 of whom remain in detention and face charges.

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

- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to release Malek Adly immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression; and to drop all charges against him;
- Urging them to ensure that others who have been arrested are released unless they are promptly charged with recognizable criminal offences that do not criminalize the exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and assembly and tried in full conformity with international fair trial standards without recourse to the death penalty;
- Calling on them to repeal the Protest Law, Counter-terrorism Law, and other laws that arbitrarily restrict the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression; otherwise amend them in line with international standards.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 JUNE 2016 TO:

Public Prosecutor
Nabil Sadek
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Madinat al-Rehab
New Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Salutation: Dear Counsellor

President
Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Office of the President
Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2391 1441
Email: p.spokesman@op.gov.eg
Twitter: @AlsisiOfficial
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:
Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Human Rights
Laila Bahaa El Din
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Corniche al-Nil, Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2574 9713
Email: Contact.Us@mfa.gov.eg
Twitter: @MfaEgypt

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 98/16. Further information: https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE12/3910/2016/en/

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Malek Adly is a prominent human rights lawyer who works for the Egyptian Centre for Economic and Social Rights. His lawyers said the prosecutor's questions focused on a lawsuit Malek Adly had filed against the president's decision to transfer control of two uninhabited islands in the Red Sea to Saudi Arabia in early April. He also faced questions about his views on Egypt's economic situation, President al-Sisi and strikes by public employees. He was also questioned about his views on the death of Italian national Giulio Regeni, who went missing in Cairo on 25 January and whose body was discovered days later bearing marks consistent with torture and other ill-treatment.

On 15 April, activists staged a demonstration in Cairo to protest Egypt's decision to transfer the two Red Sea Islands to Saudi Arabia, calling for further protests on 25 April, which marks the anniversary of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula in 1982. Security forces arbitrarily arrested dozens of people ahead of the planned demonstrations and dispersed the protests, arresting hundreds more according to figures gathered by Egyptian human rights groups and lawyers.

The security forces also targeted journalists reporting on the protests. On 1 May, the security forces raided the building of the Press Syndicate in Cairo and arrested two journalists. The Interior Ministry said the two journalists were charged with incitement to breach the Protest Law and undermining Egypt's "stability". The Press Syndicate has responded to what it said was an "unprecedented" move by calling for the resignation of the Interior Minister.

Egypt's Protest Law prohibits protesters from staging demonstrations without the consent of the authorities and gives security forces sweeping powers to disperse "unauthorized" demonstrations. In practice, the authorities have facilitated protests by supporters of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, while routinely dispersing demonstrations by his opponents.

Amnesty International has repeatedly expressed concerns over the draconian Counter-terrorism Law. The vague and overly broad definition of "terrorist act" included in the law allows the authorities to suppress any form of peaceful dissent. The 25 April demonstrations follow mass protests on 15 April, after the handover of the uninhabited islands was announced. The 15 April demonstrations were the largest seen in Egypt for over two years.

Name: Malek Adly
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 98/16 Index: Index: MDE 12/4022/2016 Issue Date: 12 May 2016