URGENT ACTION

REPEATEDLY TORTURED BY PRISON OFFICIALS

Islam Khalil, who was subjected to enforced disappearance for 122 days, has been tortured in detention and placed in solitary confinement after he spoke out against putting more detainees in his already overcrowded cell. He went on hunger strike in protest and his health has deteriorated since. He has been denied access to a doctor.

Islam Khalil was tortured by the Borg al-Arab prison officers in Alexandria after he had a verbal altercation with them about placing more detainees in a four by six meter cell already holding 25 detainees. As a result, the prison officers beat Islam Khalil with batons for 30 minutes, torn his clothes and put him in solitary confinement for nine days from 21 July until 29 July. He was not allowed access to clean drinking water, family visits or fresh air. He went on hunger strike in protest against his solitary confinement which he stopped once his solitary confinement ended and was transferred back to his cell on 29 July. His hunger strike has caused his health to deteriorate and he is currently suffering from regular vomiting and dizziness. He has also been denied access to a doctor.

Islam Khalil was originally abducted from his home in Gharbeya Governorate by agents from the National Security Agency (NSA) in the early hours of the morning of 24 May 2015. He was subjected to enforced disappearance - the authorities refused to acknowledge his deprivation of liberty and his fate was concealed for 122 days. During this time, he was tortured by NSA agents to "confess" to offences he says he did not commit. The NSA compiled a report, which included "confessions" obtained under torture. The NSA sent Islam Khalil to the East Alexandria Prosecution Office on 21 September 2015, who questioned him based on his forced "confessions" without being allowed to contact his lawyer or family, in contravention to the provisions of the Constitution. The prosecutor then ordered Islam Khalil's pre-trial detention and charged him of belonging to the banned Muslim Brotherhood group; inciting violence; and attacking security forces. If convicted he could face the death penalty.

Throughout his detention, Islam Khalil was repeatedly tortured and otherwise ill-treated. He was beaten, given electric shocks and suspended from the limbs in stress positions. Prison staff also repeatedly threatened to kill him.

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

- Urging the Egyptian authorities to release Islam Khalil immediately as his detention is unlawful;
- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to protect Islam Khalil from further torture or other ill-treatment and to bring all those suspected of criminal responsibility for his torture and other ill-treatment to justice in fair trials;
- Urge them to grant him access to a doctor pending his release.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 SEPTEMBER 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.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

URGENT ACTION

REPEATEDLY TORTURED BY PRISON OFFICIALS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Islam Khalil is a young salesman who was arrested by members of the NSA and other heavily armed security forces during a raid on his family home in al-Santa, Gharbeya Governorate on 24 May 2015. He was arrested alongside his 22-year old brother, Nour Khalil, who is a law student and activist, and his father, el-Said Khalil, a retired armed forces officer. His family informed Amnesty International that this was the eighth time the NSA had raided their family home to arrest Nour Khalil, who was the principal target of the NSA, as they wanted to question him about his political activities. Nour Khalil was not at his family home during the previous seven raids.

Islam Khalil, Nour Khalil and their father were taken to the NSA's Tanta office, a town north of Cairo. Nour Khalil was held for four days and questioned twice a day and then released. The father, who was merely arrested to intimidate the brothers, was held for 15 days and then released on 8 June 2015 without being questioned. Islam Khalil, however, was not released. During his continuous interrogations by the NSA, Islam Khalil was beaten, given electric shocks, including to genitals and suspended by the limbs, naked, in stress positions until he lost consciousness. While being interrogated, Islam Khalil was questioned about "terrorist" activities. NSA officers apparently confused him with another man, Islam Gamal, also known as Islam Abu Tereka, who they sought for alleged involvement in violent attacks on the security forces. Islam was then forced into making a "confession".

On 9 July 2015, Islam Khalil was moved to NSA's offices in Lazoughly, in downtown Cairo inside the headquarters of the Ministry of Interior, which he called "the hell". He spent 60 days there where he was subjected to further torture. His location remained unknown to his family and lawyers until 24 September when he was transferred to Alexandria's Karmouz Prison. He was transferred to Borg al-Arab Prison in January 2016.

In the official casefile, Islam Khalil's date of arrest was falsified by the NSA and was stated as 20 September 2015 whereas in reality, the NSA detained him four months earlier on 24 May 2015. This falsification of the date of arrest appears intended to cover up the unlawful nature of his arrest and the almost four month during which the NSA held him under conditions of enforced disappearance. Islam Khalil's lawyers informed the Public Prosecution office about the torture that Islam faced and the falsification of the date of arrest by the NSA. However, the prosecutor never referred Islam Khalil for an independent medical examination or opened an investigation into the torture allegation although prosecutors are obliged to investigate allegations of torture and other ill-treatment under Egyptian criminal laws. Islam Khalil has spent 439 days in detention as of 5 August 2016.

Islam Khalil told his family that the prison guards in Karmouz and Borg al-Arab prison threatened to kill him after his family published his testimony and subsequent letters. Islam Khalil's case featured in Amnesty International's latest video and press release on Egypt of 13 July entitled "*Hundreds disappeared and tortured amid wave of brutal repression"* available at: https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/07/egypt-hundreds-disappeared-and-tortured-amid-wave-of-brutal-repression/

Amnesty International has found that the NSA of the Ministry of Interior is using enforced disappearances on a widespread scale to deter opposition and to wipe out peaceful dissent. At least three to four people disappear each day across the country. The rise of enforced disappearance has coincided with the appointment of the Minister of Interior, Magdy Abd el-Ghaffar, who is a long serving officer under the State Security Investigations service, which is the secret police under Mubarak responsible for abductions, torture and other crimes under international law and serious human rights violations.

Name: Islam Khalil
Gender m/f: m

UA: 187/16 Index: MDE 12/4620/2016 Issue Date: 5 August 2016