

EGYPT

Musaad Abu Fagr

novelist in prison



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Musaad Abu Fagr (Musaad Suliman Hassan Hussein), a novelist, human rights activist, and founder of the Sinai-based movement Wedna Na'ish (We Want to Live), is detained without charge or trial despite repeated court orders for his release. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.

Musaad Abu Fagr was arrested in December 2007 following demonstrations in al-Arish, North Sinai, involving Wedna Na'ish supporters and others who were demanding permits to build houses, title to the farmland they work, and the release of Bedouin who had been detained without charge or trial after bomb attacks in Taba, Sharm al-Sheikh and Dahab between 2004 and 2006.

Two courts in al-Arish acquitted him of “inciting protests” and “resisting the authorities” in February 2008, but he then was served with an administrative detention order issued by the Minister of the Interior using powers provided under Egypt’s long-running state of emergency legislation.

Lawyers from the Hisham Mubarak Law Center have since obtained several court orders for his release, most recently in June 2009, but these have been effectively ignored by State Security Investigations (SSI) officials who have continued to detain him in breach of the law. He is now being held on his thirteenth successive administrative detention order — imposed after a court ordered his release in June; SSI officials in al-Arish failed to comply with the court order, detaining him illegally for several days until a new administrative detention order was issued by the Interior Minister.

On 18 July 2009, he was transferred to Borg al-Arab Prison, near Alexandria.

Please call on the Minister of the Interior to order the immediate release of Musaad Abu Fagr and all other prisoners of conscience in Egypt, and to curb the powers of the SSI and ensure that SSI officials who breach the law or are responsible for abusing prisoners are brought to justice.

Minister Habib Ibrahim el-Adly
Ministry of the Interior
25 Al-Sheikh Rihan Street
Bab al-Louk
Cairo, EGYPT

Fax: 011 20 22 796 0682

Ambassador Sameh Shoukry
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
3521 International Court, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Fax: 202 244 4319 or 202 244 5131

Salutation: *Dear Minister* Airmail postage abroad: 98¢ Salutation: *Your Excellency*



Amnesty International
focuses on preventing and ending
grave abuses of the rights
to physical & mental integrity,
freedom of conscience
& expression,
and freedom from discrimination,
while promoting all human rights.

Our particular concern during Banned Books Week is to draw attention to writers, editors, librarians, publishers and readers who suffer human rights violations because of their work.

from the
**Universal Declaration
of Human Rights**

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience . . .

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information & ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 27

. . . Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. . . .

*Human reason is beautiful and invincible.
No bars, no barbed wire, no pulping of books,
No sentence of banishment can prevail against it.
It puts what should be above things as they are.*

Czeslaw Milosz
(from "Incantation")

Banned Books Week 2009
IMPORTANT NOTES:

Please do not attempt to write directly to a prisoner; in some countries there might be reprisals. Experience shows that the rarity of replies from governments does not mean our letters are being ignored. If someone does receive a reply, please send a copy to the AI address on the other side (top) of this page.