

URGENT ACTION

FATHER OF MORSI'S AIDE ARRESTED

Egyptian armed security forces arrested 67-year-old Adly al-Qazzaz at his home in Cairo, at 3 am on 24 October. A State Security Prosecutor is investigating accusations that he belongs to a "banned group". Amnesty International is concerned that Adly al-Qazzaz, who is in poor health, was arrested because his son is an aide to the deposed president, Mohamed Morsi.

According to the information available to Amnesty International, the security forces who arrested Adly al-Qazzaz did not show any warrant and were dressed in plain clothes. They took **Adly al-Qazzaz** to Moqattam Police Station and then to the Supreme State Security Prosecution Office in New Cairo where he was questioned over accusations that he belongs to a banned group, and has taken part in terrorist-related activities. The security forces then transferred Adly al-Qazzaz to the Tora Prison complex, south of Cairo. Adly al-Qazzaz was not allowed to inform his family and lawyer of his whereabouts for three days after his arrest. The State Security Prosecutor will question Adly al-Qazzaz again today.

Adly al-Qazzaz's lawyer told Amnesty International that the Prosecutor did not present any incriminating evidence during the questioning to support the accusations against Adly al-Qazzaz. Instead, the questioning focused on his political beliefs. The accusations are likely to relate to Adly al-Qazzaz's support of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood movement and Egypt's deposed president, Mohamed Morsi. Adly al-Qazzaz's son, Khaled al-Qazzaz, is one of Mohamed Morsi's aides and has been detained without charge and trial by the authorities in an unknown location since 3 July.

A medical report states that Adly al-Qazzaz suffers from heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure. He was also due for a knee-replacement operation and recently underwent an operation on his back. His family is concerned that the authorities are not giving him adequate medication for his diabetes and heart condition.

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

- Urging the Egyptian authorities to release Adly al-Qazzaz unless he is charged with a recognizably criminal offence and tried before a civilian court, in full compliance with international fair trial guarantees;
- Calling on them to immediately grant Adly al-Qazzaz access to his family;
- Urging them to ensure Adly al-Qazzaz has any medical treatment he may require.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 12 DECEMBER 2013 TO:

Interim President

Adly Mahmoud Mansour
Office of the President
Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
Fax: 011 202 2 391 1441
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Defense

General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Ministry of Defence
Cairo
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
Fax: 011 202 2 290 6004
011 202 2 291 6227
Salutation: Dear General

Public Prosecutor

Hesham Mohamed Zaki Barakat
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Supreme Court House, 1 "26 July" Road
Cairo
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
Fax: 011 202 2 577 4716
011 202 2 575 7165
(switched off after office hours, GMT+2)
Salutation: Dear Counselor

Also send copies to:

Ambassador Mohamed Tawfik, Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
3521 International Ct NW, Washington DC 20008-2023
Fax: 1 202 244 4319 -OR- 202 244 5131 | Email: Embassy@egyptembassy.net

Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action Office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The authorities have continued their sweeping crackdown on supporters of Mohamed Morsi and members of the Muslim Brotherhood movement to which he is closely linked. Since 3 July, the security forces have arrested thousands of Mohamed Morsi's supporters, including most of the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood. Lawyers have told Amnesty International that in many cases those detained were not given their due process rights, such as having access to lawyers or being brought before a judge.

In September the Court of Urgent Matters outlawed all the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood, banned the movement and any affiliated associations and ordered the seizure of its assets and offices. The Ministry of Social Affairs subsequently removed it from the list of approved non-governmental organizations.

In Egypt, cases involving offences the authorities deem to be security-related are investigated by a special branch of the Public Prosecution - the Supreme State Security Prosecution. In practice, Egypt's Code of Criminal Procedures (CCP) gives sweeping powers to the Heads of Public Prosecutor offices across the country to detain people suspected of terrorist offences. In any terrorism-related cases, the Public Prosecutor can order the pre-trial ("precautionary") detention of such suspects for 15 days in his capacity as a Public Prosecutor. He can also extend the detention for up to 45 days as an examining magistrate and continue, as an accusation chamber, to renew the detention for periods not exceeding 15 days each. This means that the Public Prosecutor has the power to detain people for months without independent judicial oversight as required by Articles 202 and 203 of the CCP and international human rights standards.

As a result, those held in "precautionary" detention are deprived of their right to be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power. They are also denied the right to challenge their detention before a judicial authority established by law in order to review the lawfulness of their detention.

Name: Adly al-Qazzaz (m)

Issue(s): Arbitrary detention, Health concern, Legal concern

UA: 300/13

Issue Date: 31 October 2013

Country: Egypt