

URGENT ACTION

AL JAZEERA JOURNALISTS ON TRIAL IN EGYPT

Al Jazeera-English staff Mohamed Fahmy, Peter Greste and Baher Mohamed are on trial in Egypt, charged with broadcasting false news and involvement with the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood movement. They are prisoners of conscience and must be released immediately and unconditionally.

Egyptian-Canadian national **Mohamed Fahmy** and Australian national **Peter Greste** were arrested on the night of 29 December 2013 at the Marriott Hotel in Cairo. Egyptian national **Baher Mohamed** was arrested at his home the same night. Their trial began on 20 February and will resume on 10 April at the Tora Police Institute, next to Tora Prison where the men are held.

The authorities are denying Mohamed Fahmy adequate medical treatment for a shoulder injury he sustained a few days before he was arrested. Months of poor prison conditions and a lack of proper medical care have made the injury worse, and the journalist now has difficulty moving his arm.

Egyptian students **Sohaib Saad Mohamed, Khaled Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Shady Abdelhamid, Ahmed Abdelazim** and **Anas Mohamed El Beltagy**, all arrested on 31 December 2013 are also facing trial in the case. At the last hearing, on 31 March, three of the students told the judge that the security forces had beaten them during their arrest. The judge has ordered experts from the Medical Forensic Authority to examine both Mohamed Fahmy and the students who said they were beaten.

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

- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to release Mohamed Fahmy, Peter Greste and Baher Mohamed immediately and unconditionally;
- Urging them to ensure the five students receive a fair trial in line with international standards and are protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and drop any charges solely resulting from their peaceful exercise of freedom of expression;
- Calling on them to order independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of ill-treatment and to ensure Mohamed Fahmy has access to any medical attention they may require.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 21 MAY 2014 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: 011 202 2 577 4716

011 202 2 575 7165

(switched off after office hours, GMT+2)

Salutation: Dear Counsellor

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

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: 011 202 2 574 9713

Email: Contact.Us@mfa.gov.eg

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, 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 court is trying a total of 20 people in this case, 12 of them in their absence. All face charges of broadcasting false news and of either belonging to or assisting the Muslim Brotherhood movement, banned by a court order in September 2013 and designated as a "terrorist organization" by the authorities in December. The foreign nationals indicted also face an additional charge of possessing "banned equipment", apparently in order to falsify the news.

The security forces arrested the Egyptian students on 31 December 2013, two at an apartment in Nasr City and the others at an apartment in the Cairo suburb of Mokattam. The court is also trying five other Egyptian nationals in their absence.

Nine of the defendants are Al Jazeera staff, the network has said. As well as the three men in detention, they include British journalists Dominic Kane and Sue Turton and four Egyptian staff based in Qatar, all of whom the court is trying in their absence. A Dutch journalist who has been indicted does not work for Al Jazeera and left Egypt after she discovered she would face trial.

Mohamed Fahmy has broken his upper right arm, near the shoulder socket, days before his arrest in December. The authorities transferred him to a public hospital for scans on 22 March, following months of appeals from his family, and returned him to Tora Prison the same day.

The Egyptian authorities have cracked down the Al Jazeera network, as well as other media seen as supporting the Muslim Brotherhood and ousted president Mohamed Morsi. In the last nine months, Al Jazeera has reported a number of incidents where security forces have arrested its staff or raided its offices. On 3 September 2013, an administrative court banned the network's Egyptian channel, Al Jazeera Mubasher Misr, along with three other channels widely perceived as supportive of the Muslim Brotherhood. The security forces also filmed the arrest of Mohamed Fahmy and Peter Greste, in a video later played on Egyptian television, apparently in an attempt to smear the men.

The authorities are still detaining Al Jazeera Arabic journalist Abdullah al-Shami without charge or trial, arrested on 14 August 2013. He has been on hunger strike since mid-January in protest at his continued imprisonment.

Egypt's president has written to the families of Mohamed Fahmy and Peter Greste, saying he is working to resolve the situation.

Both Peter Greste and Mohamed Fahmy have written from prison to describe poor conditions of detention and to rebut the charges against them. Amnesty International will observe future sessions of the trial.

Names: Mohamed Fahmy, Peter Greste, Baher Mohamed, Sohaib Saad Mohamed, Khaled Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Shady Abdelhamid, Ahmed Abdelazim, Anas Mohamed El Beltagy (m)

Issues: Unfair trial; Prisoners of conscience; Arbitrary detention

UA: 83/14

Issue Date: 9 April 2014

Country: Egypt