

# URGENT ACTION

## TRIAL OF NUBIAN ACTIVISTS ADJOURNED

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On 30 January, the State Security Emergency Court adjourned the trial of 32 Nubian activists to 27 February, where a sentence is expected. The activists are being charged with “participating in an unauthorized protest” and “repeating chants against the state for the purpose of harming public interest”. If convicted, they could face up to five years in prison. Sentences imposed by State Security Emergency Courts cannot be appealed and only require the President’s approval to be authorized.

Thus far, Egyptian authorities have failed to investigate the death in custody of prisoner of conscience Gamal Sorour, who was arrested along with the other 24 protesters. He died of a diabetic coma, a result of medical negligence, and the reluctance of prison authorities at Al Shalal Security Camp in Aswan to take him to the hospital in a timely manner. The Egyptian authorities have shown no efforts to investigate the case.

### 1) TAKE ACTION

**Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:**

- Drop all charges against the 32 Nubian activists as they are solely charged for their peaceful exercise of their human right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;
- Repeal the decrees stipulating that crimes under protest laws are referred to State Security Emergency Courts, and ensure everyone convicted of a criminal offence has the right to appeal and have the conviction and sentence reviewed by a higher tribunal;
- Promptly initiate an independent, impartial, and effective investigation into the death of Gamal Sorour with a view to bring anyone suspected of criminal responsibility to justice, without resorting to the death penalty.

**Contact these two officials by 16 March, 2018:**

#### 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](mailto:p.spokesman@op.gov.eg)  
Twitter: [@AlsisiOfficial](https://twitter.com/AlsisiOfficial)  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Ambassador Yasser Reda, Embassy of Egypt  
3521 International Ct NW, Washington DC 20008  
Phone: 202 895 5400  
Fax: 202 244 4319 -OR- 202 244 5131  
Email: [embassy@egyptembassy.net](mailto:embassy@egyptembassy.net)  
**Salutation: Dear Ambassador**

### 2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

[Click here](#) to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 249.17*

Here’s why it is so important to report your actions: we record the actions taken on each case—letters, emails, calls and tweets—and use that information in our advocacy.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 15 November, the Aswan State Security Emergency Court ordered the release of all 32 Nubian activists and adjourned their trial to 12 December. The Nubian activists, including two women activists Seham Osman and Wafaa Abelqawi, were originally referred to a State Security Emergency Court on 13 November. They are set to appear in front of the court in Aswan, in the south of Egypt, on 12 December. The activists are being charged with “participating in an unauthorized protest” and “repeating chants against the state for the purpose of harming public interest”.

On 3 September, 25 Nubian activists were arrested for their participation in peaceful protests. Later, the Aswan Prosecutor added eight more protesters to the case and issued arrest warrants against them too. The first session of the trial was scheduled for 15 November, but it was adjourned to 12 December.

The protests were in response to the forcible displacement of Nubians, who are an Indigenous people, from their traditional lands by successive Egyptian governments for development projects. The displacement poses a threat to the preservation of the Nubian cultural, historical, and linguistic identity, which had already been severely eroded. The displacement of Nubians has had huge socio-economic consequences for the community. Nubians are often unable to work in agriculture as they were forcibly moved from their old villages on the banks of Nile to desert areas which lack the necessary access to water and fertile soil.

Nubian activist Mohamed Saleh Sorour (also known as Gamal Sorour) died on 4 November after falling into a diabetic coma, while in detention in Aswan, in the south of Egypt. According to his relatives, Gamal Sorour had been suffering from diabetes and had two heart attacks two years ago. He had been receiving regular treatment for his health problems, before his arrest on 3 September for partaking in a peaceful protest. Despite other inmates repeatedly knocking on the cell door begging prison guards for help, it took prison authorities three hours to take Gamal Sorour to the hospital, according to lawyers and relatives. For further information on the Urgent action see [www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/7397/2017/en/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/7397/2017/en/).

Name: Seham Osman (f), Mohamed Azmy(m), Maysara Abdoun(m), Mohamedd Osman(m), Wafaa Ali(f), Hamdy Ali(m), Moneer Basheer(f), Mohamed Fadl(m), Tamer Taha(m), Safwat Ahmad(m), Hamdy Abdelhafez(m), Waleed Nasser(m), Zakareya Ahmed(m), Tariq Khaleel(m), Abdelqader Mohamed(m), Bakry Karar(m), Yehya Suleiman(m), Magdy Mohamed(m), Ahmad Abdelmalik(m), Hamza Hammoud(m), Hisham Taha(m), Saleh Ahmad(m), Mohsin Mohamed(m), Ammar Abdennaeem(m), Mohamed Hussein(m), Mostafa Taha(m), Fahd Sayyed(m), Khaleefa Khaleefa(m), Yasser Mohamed(m), Magdy Ibrahim(m), Ezzeddeen Ali(m), and Fawzy Gaber(m)  
Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 249/17 Index: MDE 12/7819/2018 Egypt Issue Date: 02 February 2018