

URGENT ACTION

UNJUSTLY JAILED RIGHTS LAWYER REFERRED TO TRIAL

Ibrahim Metwaly, human rights lawyer and co-founder and coordinator of the Association of the Families of the Disappeared in Egypt, has spent over seven years arbitrarily detained in retaliation for his human rights work. Security forces arrested Ibrahim Metwaly on September 10, 2017 from the Cairo International Airport while on his way to Geneva to address the UN. Since September 2024, he has been referred to two separate trials on similar bogus charges. He is being held in Badr 3 prison, where he is being denied urgent healthcare. He must be immediately and unconditionally released as he is being held solely due to the exercise of his human rights, including seeking truth and justice for his forcibly disappeared son.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **Second UA 80.23**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Public Prosecutor Mohamed Shawky Ayyad
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Madinat al-Rehab; Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +202 2577 4716;
Twitter/X: [@EgyptianPPO](#)

CC: Egyptian Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Motaz Zahran
3521 International Court, NW,
Washington DC 20008
Email: Embassy@egyptembassy.net
Fax: +202 244 5131

Dear Counsellor,

I am writing to express my concern over the prolonged arbitrary detention of 64-year-old **Ibrahim Metwaly**, who has been held since September 10, 2017, solely for his human rights activism including his efforts to secure truth and justice for his forcibly disappeared son. Ibrahim Metwaly was arrested by Egyptian security forces at Cairo International Airport on his way to Geneva, where he was invited to attend the 113TH session of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to discuss enforced disappearances in Egypt. Following his arrest, he was held incommunicado for two days until he appeared before the Supreme State Security Prosecutor (SSSP) in Cairo. He told his lawyers that during this period National Security Agency (NSA) officers stripped him naked, gave him electric shocks in various parts of his body, doused him in water, and beat him, in violation of the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment.

In September and October 2024, the Egyptian authorities referred Ibrahim Metwaly to trial on charges of “joining a group that was founded in violation of the law and committing a crime of funding terrorism”, among others. His lawyers have not been granted access to his case files, and no trial sessions have been scheduled yet. Ibrahim Metwaly also suffers from multiple health conditions which the SSSP has failed to address.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Ibrahim Metwaly as he is detained solely for peacefully exercising his human rights. Pending his release, he must be held in conditions meeting international standards for the treatment of prisoners and granted access to adequate healthcare, including in outside hospitals, if necessary, as well as to his family and lawyers.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ibrahim Metwaly is a lawyer and co-founder of the Families of the Disappeared in Egypt group. He cofounded the group after his son, Amr, was forcibly disappeared on July 8, 2013. He searched for his son in police stations, prisons, hospitals, and morgues with no success. Egyptian security forces [denied](#) knowledge of his son's fate and whereabouts. Amr remains subjected to enforced disappearance, but the family stopped searching for him after the arrest of Ibrahim Metwaly out of fear of further reprisals.

On September 12, 2017, the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) ordered the detention of Ibrahim Metwaly for 15 days pending investigations into charges of founding and leading an illegal group, the "Families of the Disappeared in Egypt Group," "conspiring with foreign parties to harm Egyptian national security," and "publishing false news". While Egyptian law imposes a maximum two-year pretrial detention period, this is routinely bypassed in cases involving state critics and political opponents through a practice known as "rotation".

Ibrahim Metwaly is currently held in [Badr 3 Prison](#), where prisoners are subjected to horrific and punitive conditions. Former detainees and family members have spoken of heavily restricted access to basic necessities such as sufficient food, clothing, and books. Authorities often deny regular contact with families and lawyers and detention renewal hearings are routinely held online. Such hearings take place under coercive circumstances in the presence of prison guards and detainees are prevented from communicating with their lawyers. Further, they expose detainees to risks of reprisals from guards for complaining about torture or other ill-treatment and impede the ability of judges to spot visible bruises or other injuries.

Ibrahim Metwaly's family is allowed to visit him every 45 days or two months. The visitors sit in a booth with glass partition separating them from their loved ones, which makes communication difficult due to the low volume of the phone. The family is also allowed to deliver food, clothing, and medical items every 30 days, but report that on some occasions officials ban specific items at their whim.

Amnesty International has documented a pattern of enforced disappearances which have plagued Egypt for the past decade. The National Security Agency (NSA) and other security forces routinely hold those accused of involvement in terrorism or protests incommunicado and deny any information about their fate and whereabouts to their relatives and lawyers, for periods ranging from a few days to 23 months. Egypt remains a non-signatory of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Arabic, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: June 27, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Ibrahim Metwaly (he/him).

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-human-rights-lawyer-must-be-released-egypt-ua-80-23/>