

# URGENT ACTION

## LIFE OF MOTHER PROTESTING SON'S UNJUST DETENTION AT RISK

Prominent Egyptian-British activist, Alaa Abdel Fattah, remains arbitrarily detained despite completing the length of his unjust five-year prison sentence on September 29, 2024. Since then, his 68-year-old mother, Laila Soueif, has been on hunger strike. On February 24, 2025, after 149 days on hunger strike, she was hospitalized after her blood sugar and blood pressure were recorded at dangerously low levels. Her life is in critical danger according to a doctor who examined her on February 25. Alaa Abdel Fattah, who has spent most of the past decade behind bars, has been subjected to a litany of human rights violations including arbitrary detention, unfair trial, and torture and other ill-treatment. Alaa Abdel Fattah is a prisoner of conscience who should be immediately and unconditionally released as his detention is solely linked to the exercise of his human rights.

### 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 **Seventeenth UA 132.19**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

#### President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

Office of the President Al Ittihadia Palace  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt;  
Email: [p.spokesman@op.gov.eg](mailto:p.spokesman@op.gov.eg);  
Twitter/X: [@AlsisiOfficial](https://twitter.com/AlsisiOfficial)

#### CC: Egyptian Embassy in the United States

**Ambassador Motaz Zahran**  
3521 International Court, NW,  
Washington DC 20008  
Email: [embassy@egyptembassy.net](mailto:embassy@egyptembassy.net)

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my deep concern that prominent Egyptian-British activist, **Alaa Abdel Fattah**, continues to be detained, even though he had completed the length of his unjust five-year prison sentence on September 29, 2024. In protest of his ongoing detention, on September 30, 2024, Alaa Abdel Fattah's mother, Laila Soueif, announced an open-ended hunger strike, surviving on herbal tea, black coffee, and rehydration salts. After nearly five months of hunger strike and losing nearly 30 kilograms, "there is now an [immediate risk](#) to life including further deterioration or death", according to a report by a medical consultant in Saint Thomas Hospital dated February 25, 2025.

On January 28, 2025, during Egypt's Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the UK has made a [statement](#) calling for the release of Alaa Abdel Fattah. On February 27, 2025, a group of UN Special Rapporteurs [urged](#) the Egyptian authorities to immediately release Alaa Abdel Fattah. Despite this chorus of voices calling for his release, he remains arbitrary detained while his mother's life is at risk.

I urge you to release Alaa Abdel Fattah immediately and unconditionally, as he is detained solely for exercising his human rights. Pending his release, he must have regular access to his lawyers, family, and adequate healthcare and be held in conditions that meet international standards for the treatment of prisoners. He must be granted consular access without further delay.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Alaa Abdel Fattah**, a well-known political activist and government critic, has been repeatedly arrested during the past decade including for his role in the 2011 uprising. On September 29, 2019, National Security Agency (NSA) officers arrested him from Dokki police station in Greater Cairo, where he was forced to spend 12 hours every night following his release on probation in March 2019, after having served another unjust five-year prison sentence. Later that day, human rights lawyer Mohamed Baker, was arrested from a prosecution office while attending the investigation session of his client, Alaa Abdel Fattah. Alaa Abdel Fattah and Mohamed Baker were ordered into pretrial detention pending investigations into bogus terrorism-related charges under Case No.1356/2019 of the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP).

The SSSP opened investigations into similar charges against them under new Case No. 1228/2021 as part of a strategy increasingly used by the authorities, referred to as "rotation", to circumvent the two-year limit for pre-trial detention allowed under Egyptian law and to indefinitely extend the detention of activists. Their trial in Case No. 1228/2021 started on October 28, 2021, together with another defendant: blogger and activist Mohamed Ibrahim Radwan "Oxygen". Proceedings before emergency courts are inherently unfair as their verdicts are not subject to appeal by a higher tribunal. Defense lawyers were prevented from communicating with defendants in private.

Alaa Abdel Fattah was held in inhumane conditions at the Tora Maximum Security 2 Prison, in Cairo from September 2019 to May 2022. Prison authorities held him in a small, poorly ventilated cell and denied him a bed and mattress. The prison authorities also denied him reading materials, exercise in the prison yard, adequate clothing, radios, watches, access to hot water, and any personal belongings, including family photos. On May 12, 2022, Alaa Abdel Fattah told his mother that he was beaten while handcuffed by the deputy prison warden at Tora Maximum Security 2 prison. On May 18, 2022, he was transferred to Wadi al-Natroun Prison after significant public pressure.

Alaa Abdel Fattah began his hunger strike on April 2, 2022 to protest his unjust imprisonment and denial of consular visits. Between November 1 and November 6, 2022, he escalated his hunger strike and stopped consuming the 100 calories he had been consuming and water. On November 11, 2022, Alaa Abdel Fattah lost consciousness in the shower, and when he regained it, he had a tube inserted into his body. Following this near-death experience, he decided not to resume his hunger strike immediately, but vowed to continue if "there continues to be no real movement on his case".

On February 21, 2025, 25 Egyptian and international civil society organizations, including Amnesty International, signed a joint letter [urging](#) the UK government to increase the pressure on the Egyptian authorities to release Alaa Abdel Fattah during the upcoming 58th session of the UN Human Rights Council which takes place from February 24 to the April 4, 2025.

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

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** August 27, 2025

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Alaa Abdel Fattah (he/him)

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-prominent-activist-risks-indefinite-detention-egypt-sixteenth-ua-132-19/>