URGENT ACTION

FOUR SIBLINGS DETAINED OVER SISTER'S DISSENT

Between May and August 2026, the Egyptian security forces arrested siblings and Egyptian nationals Hassan Elshazly, Eid Elshazly, and Shaima Elshazly, as well as their sister Eman Elshazly, a dual British Egyptian national, in Alexandria. They remain in pretrial detention pending investigations by the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) into terrorism-related and "false news" charges in retaliation for their exiled sister Mona Elshazly's public criticism of the Egyptian authorities. National Security Agency (NSA) officials repeatedly threatened to harm Mona Elshazly's relatives should she persist in her vocal dissent, and following their arrests, questioned the four siblings about Mona Elshazly's activism. The authorities must immediately and unconditionally release the four siblings whose detention on account of their sister's dissent is arbitrary.

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 ***UA 99.26***. 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
X: @EgyptianPPO

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

CC: Egyptian Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Mohamed Hamdy ElMolla
3521 International Court, NW,
Washington DC 20008
Email: embassy@egyptembassy.net
ambassador@egyptembassy.net

Dear Counselor,

I am concerned about the arbitrary detention of siblings **Eman Elshazly**, **Shaimaa Elshazly**, **Hassan Elshazly**, and **Eid Elshazly** in retaliation to their exiled sister **Mona Elshazly**'s vocal criticism of the Egyptian authorities.

On May 19, 2026, National Security Agency (NSA) forces arrested Hassan Elshazly and Eid Elshazly from their homes in Alexandria. They were held incommunicado for five days before being brought to SSSP prosecutors, who ordered their pretrial detention for "using a social media account to promote the ideas of a terrorist group" and "broadcasting false news and statements that could harm public security and order". On August 17, 2026, NSA forces arrested Eman Elshazly, a British-Egyptian national residing in the UK who had traveled to Egypt to care for her older mother. On August 18, 2026, security forces arrested Shaimaa Elshazly from her home in Alexandria. The SSSP ordered their pretrial detention pending investigations in the same case and on the same charges as their brothers. The four siblings are currently detained in the 10th of Ramadan Prison.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Eid Elshazly, Eman Elshazly, Hassan Elshazly, and Shaimaa Elshazly and to drop all charges against them, as their detention appears to be solely related to their exiled sister's vocal criticism of the Egyptian authorities. Pending their release, ensure they have regular access to their family and lawyers, that Eman Elshazly is granted consular access, and that all four are held in conditions that meet international standards for the treatment of prisoners.

Yours sincerely,

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mona Elshazly is a British-Egyptian national living in the UK who has been vocal in her criticism of the Egyptian government, including President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the military, and security forces, accusing them of corruption and human rights violations. She has not traveled to Egypt since 2016.

Eman Elshazly has resided in the UK since 2004, along with her husband and four children aged between ten and 17. Since her arrest on August 17, 2026, her husband has publicly campaigned for her release in the UK, including through media interviews and a petition calling on the UK government to intervene. The family lawyer told Amnesty International that the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has been in contact with the family and that the British representation in Cairo has requested consular access to Eman Elshazly but had yet to receive a positive response from the Egyptian authorities.

The May 2026 detention is not the first time that **Hassan Elshazly**, father-of-three children aged between five and 13, and **Eid Elshazly** has been targeted by the Egyptian authorities against a backdrop of repeated pressure on the family to persuade Mona Elshazly to stop her criticism. On August 22, 2020, NSA forces arrested the two brothers from their home in Alexandria. According to human rights groups, they were subjected to enforced disappearance for several weeks before appearing before the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) in connection with Case No. 855 of 2020. They subsequently spent nearly three years in pretrial detention before being released in March 2023 without ever facing formal charges or trial. According to human rights organizations, the brothers faced a range of accusations, including joining an unlawful group, spreading false information through social media, and cooperating with and providing financial support to a person considered hostile to the state. Shaimaa Elshazly, mother-of-three children aged between four and 18, had not been arrested previously.

Amnesty International has documented a pattern of reprisals by the Egyptian authorities against dissidents and human rights defenders living abroad, including through the arbitrary arrest, detention, and prosecution of their relatives in Egypt. Cases documented by Amnesty include **Oqba Hashad**, who has been arbitrarily detained since May 2019 solely in retaliation for the human rights activism of his brother **Amr Hashad**, who lives in exile, as well as the targeting of relatives of U.S.-based human rights defender **Mohamed Soltan** and activist **Ghada Naguib**, who was living in Türkiye.

Amnesty International has previously documented cruel and inhuman detention conditions at 10th of Ramadan Prison, including severe restrictions on movement, deprivation of sunlight and outdoor exercise, and limited family contact. Detainees have reportedly been confined to their cells for up to 23 hours a day, with only a maximum of one hour of exercise in an indoor corridor. Family visits have been restricted to 20–30 minutes once a month, while some detainees have been denied visits altogether. Amnesty International has also documented how prison officials denied some prisoners adequate food and healthcare and carried out reprisals against those protesting their conditions.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: May 16, 2027

NAME AND PRONOUN: Hassan Elshazly (he/him), Eid Elshazly (he/him), Eman Elshazly (she/her), and Shaimaa Elshazly (she/her)