

**Urgent Action Office** 3-1992 Yonge Street Toronto ON M4S 1Z7 Phone: (416) 363-9933 Fax: (416) 363-3103 [urgentaction@amnesty.ca](mailto:urgentaction@amnesty.ca)  
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## EGYPT

### SEEKING JUSTICE FOR ANAS AL-BELTAGY: A DECADE OF UNJUST DETENTION

For over a decade, Anas al-Beltagy has languished in arbitrary detention, solely due to his family affiliation. Since his arrest in December 2013, the Egyptian authorities have inflicted a series of human rights violations upon him, including enforced disappearance, torture, and other forms of ill-treatment. Since his transfer to the 10th of Ramadan Prison on June 8, 2023, he has endured prolonged solitary confinement and has been denied any prison visits. His only connection to the outside world is through video link appearances at pre-trial detention renewal hearings.

During his latest hearing in November 2023, Anas al-Beltagy was interrupted by the judge, and his audio was muted when he attempted to voice complaints about his treatment and prison conditions. These interruptions raise serious concerns about his overall well-being. It is imperative that he is immediately and unconditionally released, putting an end to this prolonged injustice.

#### **Write to the Egyptian President urging him to:**

- Ensure that Anas al-Beltagy is immediately and unconditionally released and all charges against him are dropped as they are brought solely because of his family links and the exercise of his human rights.
- Guarantee that pending his release, he is held in conditions meeting international standards for the treatment of prisoners and granted regular access to his family, lawyers and adequate healthcare.

#### **Write to:**

President AbdelFattah 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);  
X: @AlsisiOfficial  
*Salutation: Your Excellency:*

#### **And copy:**

His Excellency Ahmed Abdallah Ibrahim HAFEZ  
Ambassador  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
454 Laurier Avenue East  
Ottawa, ON K1N 6R3  
Tel: (613) 234-4931, 4935 Fax: (613) 234-9347/234-4398  
Email: [embassy.ottawa1@mfa.gov.eg](mailto:embassy.ottawa1@mfa.gov.eg)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Security forces first arrested then 20-year-old Anas al-Beltagy on December 24, 2013, during a visit with his mother to the Tora Prison Complex to see his detained father, Mohamed al-Beltagy. According to information gathered by Amnesty International, security forces surrounded and beat them, before transferring them to the Maadi prosecution where they were interrogated over accusations of assaulting prison guards. The prosecution ordered their provisional release on bail after about twenty hours of detention.

On December 31, 2013, Anas al-Beltagy was arrested at a friend's house in Nasr City neighborhood of Cairo. He was taken to Nasr City 1 Police Station, where police officers refused to acknowledge his detention and forcibly disappeared him for nearly a month, during which he was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. Amnesty International learned from informed sources that security forces held him in a small iron cage, described as “unfit for humans”. After his transfer to Abu Zaabal prison in Alexandria in early 2014, the prison administration held him in prolonged solitary confinement and forced him to sleep on the bare concrete floor. He was subsequently transferred to the Tora Prison Complex, south of Cairo, where he continued to be subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, including prolonged solitary confinement. He was transferred to the Badr Prison Complex in November 2022.

He has been held in cruel and inhuman prison conditions, violating the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment. In Badr Prison - where he was detained from November 2022 to June 2023 - he was held in solitary confinement in a freezing cell with fluorescent lights switched on 24 hours a day, not permitted any exercise outdoors and denied any contact with other prisoners. Since his transfer to 10th of Ramadan prison on June 8, 2023, he was also placed in solitary confinement. Prison officials continue to ban his family from bringing him any food, climate-appropriate clothes, and medicine, despite well-documented patterns of prison authorities failing to provide those in their custody with sufficient food, potable water, basic items for personal hygiene, adequate clothing and bedding.

During his pre-trial detention renewal hearings (which have been held remotely via video link since 2022, and in which he sometimes appears with his hands and legs cuffed) he complained about the deterioration of his physical and mental health and psychological condition due to his detention conditions. Such hearings erode fair trial standards and take place under coercive circumstances in the presence of prison guards and detainees are prevented from communicating privately 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.

Lawyers also frequently complain of technical problems during online hearings, including poor connectivity and their inability to adequately hear defendants. Anas al-Baltagy’s lawyers also reported not seeing him on camera during some scheduled detention renewal hearings but had no confirmation whether he present in the room. His lawyers said that the judge presiding over his detention renewal hearings has dismissed and failed to address his repeated complaints about his ill-treatment, prompting Anas al-Beltagy to request for the hearings on the renewal of his pre-trial detention to be brought in front of a different judge.

Security forces have long targeted the family of Mohamed al-Beltagy, leading several to flee Egypt. Security forces killed Asma al-Beltagy, Anas al-Beltagy's sister, aged 16 at the time of her death, during their violent dispersal of the Rabaa al-Adawiya sit-in on August 14, 2013, which left some 900 dead. No security or military official has been held accountable for the unlawful lethal use of force to date, while authorities rounded up thousands of actual or suspected members and supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood.

*Please send your appeals until **March 7, 2024**. If there's the need for further action after that date, the UA will be duly updated.*