



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)  
Fifteenth UA: 132/19 Index: MDE 12/7744/2024 Egypt of February 22, 2024

## EGYPT

### PROMINENT ACTIVIST DENIED CONSULAR VISIT

Prominent Egyptian-British activist Alaa Abdel Fattah has spent 52 months arbitrarily detained simply for exercising his human rights. On December 20, 2021, he was convicted on bogus charges and sentenced to five years in prison, following a grossly unfair trial. Alaa Abdel Fattah, who has spent most of the past decade behind bars, was subjected to a litany of human rights violations including prolonged arbitrary detention, unfair trial, torture and other ill-treatment, and periodic bans on family visits. Egyptian authorities continue to deny him access to consular visits from UK officials. Alaa Abdel Fattah should be immediately and unconditionally released as his detention is solely linked to the exercise of his human rights.

#### Write to President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi urging him 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.
- Ensure that he is granted a consular visit without further delay.

#### Write to:

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

Email: [p.spokesman@op.gov.eg](mailto:p.spokesman@op.gov.eg)

X (formerly Twitter): @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: [egyptembottawa@gmail.com](mailto:egyptembottawa@gmail.com)

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Alaa Abdel Fattah, a prominent activist known for his critique of the government and his participation in the 2011 uprising, has faced multiple arrests over the last decade. His most recent arrest was on September 29, 2019, by National Security Agency officers at a police station in Dokki, Greater Cairo, where he was compelled to spend 12 hours nightly as part of a probation condition after serving an earlier five-year sentence.

That same day, human rights lawyer Mohamed Baker was detained while representing Alaa Abdel Fattah. Both were placed in pre-trial detention on unfounded terrorism charges, part of a tactic known as "rotation" used by authorities to bypass legal limits on pre-trial detention and extend activists' imprisonment indefinitely. Their trial, which began on October 28, 2021, was marred by procedural unfairness, including restricted communication with their lawyers and limited access to case files. On January 3, 2022, the president confirmed their sentences, which began from the date of ratification, not arrest.

Alaa Abdel Fattah endured harsh conditions in Tora Maximum Security 2 Prison, including confinement in a cramped, poorly ventilated cell without basic amenities. On May 12, 2022, he reported being assaulted by a prison official. Following public outcry, he was moved to Wadi al-Natroun Prison.

Mohamed Baker was released on July 19, 2023, after a presidential pardon, amidst a broader release of political prisoners. However, many remain detained under unjust conditions. Alaa Abdel Fattah's hunger strike during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in November 2022 drew international attention, including a call for his release by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Despite a life-threatening episode during his hunger strike, Abdel Fattah remains committed to protesting his detention.

The UN Human Rights Committee has criticized Egypt's record on arbitrary detention and misuse of counterterrorism laws against critics. Alaa Abdel Fattah's family continues to seek justice, filing an urgent appeal with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on November 14, 2023.

***Please take action as soon as possible until April 18, 2024! The UA will be duly updated should there be the need for further action.***