

# URGENT ACTION

## UNJUSTLY JAILED STUDENT WITH DISABILITY “ROTATED”

Despite a February court order for his release, Egyptian authorities are continuing to arbitrarily detain Oqba Hashad who has been in prolonged pretrial detention for almost five years. Instead of releasing him, security forces subjected him to enforced disappearance from February 22 to March 2, 2024, when prosecutors renewed his pretrial detention pending investigations into bogus charges in a new case. He continues to be held in 10th of Ramadan Prison, where authorities are cruelly denying him a prosthetic leg, which he needs to walk unassisted as his right leg has been amputated above the knee since his childhood. Egyptian authorities should release him immediately and unconditionally as his detention is solely linked to his brother’s human rights activism.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on *Third Urgent Action 110.23*. It’s important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

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Dear Counsellor,

I write to express my concern about the continued arbitrary detention of 26-year-old student, **Oqba Hashad**, solely for his brother’s activism. Oqba Hashad has been held without trial since May 20, 2019. On February 20, 2024, a judge ordered his release on the grounds that his pretrial detention in Case No. 7769/2019 of the Supreme Security State Prosecution (SSSP) had exceeded the two-year limit under Egyptian law, prosecutors ordered his detention in a new Case No. 3391/2023 of the SSSP on similar bogus charges of joining and financing a terrorist group. After his transfer from Wadi al-Natroun prison to Ashmoun Police station on February 22 in preparation for his release, authorities subjected him to enforced disappearance until March 2, 2024, when he appeared at the SSSP, without a lawyer of his choosing. During this period, Oqba Hashad was denied any contact with his family and lawyer.

Oqba Hashad’s right leg is amputated above the knee, and he requires a prosthetic leg to move unassisted. When his relatives visited him in 10th of Ramadan prison on March 14, he told them that he was not allowed to bring his prosthetic leg with him after his transfer from Wadi al-Natroun prison. Prison authorities continue to deny Oqba Hashad a prosthetic leg.

I urge you to ensure that Oqba Hashad is immediately and unconditionally released and all charges against him dropped. Pending his release, he must be granted a suitable prosthetic leg as well as regular access to his family, lawyers, and adequate healthcare, and held in conditions that comply with international standards for the treatment of prisoners.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Oqba Hashad** has been arbitrarily detained for four years and nine months without trial, solely due to his family affiliation, particularly the human rights activism of his brother, Amr Hashad, a human rights activist who left Egypt in 2019. Prison authorities had interrogated Oqba Hashad on multiple occasions, most recently in October 2023, about his brother's human rights work and contact with his family in Egypt. They also questioned him on whether he had shared any information with his brother about his prison conditions.

On January 4, 2024, following his family's repeated requests and supporter mobilization, Wadi al-Natroun prison authorities provided him with a new prosthetic leg since his old prosthetic broke in August 2022. However, it was unusable, as it was size 40 while he needs a size 45. Prison authorities have yet to respond to a request submitted by Oqba Hashad's family to the prosecution on January 10 for a doctor to visit him and take measurements for an appropriate prosthetic leg. Wadi al-Natroun prison authorities also denied him the medicine and antiseptics he needs for his stump care.

Since August 2022, prison authorities have been cruelly denying Oqba Hashad access to adequate healthcare and a prosthetic leg, causing him severe physical and psychological pain and suffering. On January 9, 2024, Oqba Hashad was transferred to court without a wheelchair, hopping on one leg, and was forced to sit on the floor in front of the judge. The prison authorities are refusing to grant him specialized medical care, not available in prison, raising fears about permanent and irreversible damage to his spinal column, according to independent doctors consulted by his relatives.

On August 7, 2022, relatives of Oqba Hashad's cellmate, who had visited the Wadi al-Natroun prison that day, called his family to inform them that his prosthetic leg had broken. The family did not have the financial means to replace it, and therefore sought to repair it instead. On August 9, 2022, when his relatives returned to the prison with the prosthetic leg, the prison authorities insisted on carrying out a thorough inspection, attempted to dismantle it and informed the family that they would submit it for further inspections. Oqba Hashad is currently detained in the 10th of Ramadan prison. He was transferred there after appearing in front of the prosecution in a new Case No. 3391/2023 of the SSSP.

In May 2019, NSA agents stormed his student residence at the University of Sadat City, in Menoufia governorate, and arrested everyone without a warrant. All other students were released within days, except for Oqba Hashad. Following his arbitrary arrest, security forces forcibly disappeared him for 77 days and subjected him to torture and other ill-treatment, including suspension by his arms from the ceiling, and electric shocks on his genitals and stump of his leg. On August 1, 2019, a prosecutor ordered his pre-trial detention pending investigations into charges of "joining a group formed against the rule of law" and "participating in demonstrations to overthrow the regime". His pretrial detention, which has long exceeded the two-year limit permitted under Egyptian law, has been extended.

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

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** May 29, 2024

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Oqba Hashad (He/him).

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/7657/2024/en/>