

URGENT ACTION

UNJUSTLY JAILED LAWYER FACES NEW CHARGES

On October 31, 2023, human rights lawyer, Hoda Abdelmoniem, was due to be released after serving her unjust five-year prison sentence stemming solely from the exercise of her human rights. Instead, the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) ordered her pretrial detention pending investigations into similar bogus terrorism-related charges in a separate case No. 730 of 2020. During a rare visit to 10th of Ramadan prison on January 4, her family learned that her health continues to deteriorate and that she developed an ear infection, affecting her balance and sight. She must be immediately and unconditionally released.

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 ***Eighth Urgent Action 190.18***. 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.

President Abdelfattah al-Sisi
Office of the President, Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt; Fax: +202 2391 1441
Email: p.spokesman@op.gov.eg; Twitter: [@AlsisiOfficial](#)

Egyptian Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Motaz Mounir Zahran
3521 International Court, NW, Washington DC 20008
Email: Embassy@egyptembassy.net
Salutation: Dear Ambassador Motaz Mounir Zahran

Your Excellency, or Dear Ambassador,

Human rights lawyer **Hoda Abdelmoniem**, 64, has been arbitrarily detained for over five years, solely in relation to her human rights work. On October 31, 2023, she was due to be released after serving her five-year unjust prison sentence, which convicted her of terrorism and other bogus charges following a grossly unfair trial. Instead, she was taken before a Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) prosecutor, who interrogated her in relation to a separate case No. 730 of 2020 and ordered her pretrial detention for 15 days pending investigations into bogus terrorism-related charges. This abusive practice is commonly referred to as “rotation”, when individuals held for political reasons are accused of similar charges in new cases to keep them detained indefinitely, even when prosecutors or judges order their release, or after they have served their sentence.

On January 4, 2024, her family visited her in 10th of Ramadan prison and learned that she was diagnosed with an ear infection that impairs her balance and sight. This was the first time that authorities allowed her a family visit since June 8, 2023. Hoda Abdelmoniem’s health has been deteriorating throughout her detention.

I urge you to ensure that Hoda Abdelmoniem is immediately and unconditionally released and that all charges against her are dropped as they stem solely from the exercise of her human rights.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hoda Abdelmoniem volunteered as a consultant for the ECRF and had been active in documenting human rights violations including cases of enforced disappearances. She is a former member of the National Council for Human Rights and of the Egyptian Bar Association. On November 27, 2020, the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe granted its 2020 Human Rights Award to Hoda Abdelmoniem and six other detained lawyers in Egypt. On November 1, 2018, National Security Agency forces (NSA) broke into the house of **Hoda Abdelmoniem** in Cairo at 1:30 am, ransacked it, and took her away blindfolded. She was subjected to enforced disappearance for three weeks after her arrest until she was brought to the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) for investigation. She was then taken back to an undisclosed location. Her family briefly saw her again on November 24 and 28, 2018 at the SSSP office. She was subjected to enforced disappearance again between December 2, 2018, and January 14, 2019. On the day of Hoda Abdelmoniem's arrest, the Egyptian authorities launched a series of raids, arresting at least 31 human rights defenders and lawyers.

On November 30, 2020, Hoda Abdelmoniem's family learned from other prisoners' relatives that she was taken to the prison hospital before being transferred to an external hospital after suffering from severe pain. While her family has been denied access to her medical records by prison authorities, they were informed by other prisoners' families that one of her kidneys had failed, while the other was functioning poorly. On December 1, 2020, the Ministry of Interior publicly claimed that she has been provided with healthcare and does not suffer from serious medical conditions. During a court hearing held on October 11, 2021, she told the judges that the prison doctor said she required cardiac catheterization and requested her release on medical grounds.

On August 23, 2021, the SSSP referred her and several others to trial in front of an Emergency State Security Court (ESSC). Hoda Abdelmoniem was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on charges of joining, financing, and supporting a "terrorist group" and other bogus charges stemming from her human rights work. She was also added to the "list of terrorists" which leads to an asset freeze and travel ban and puts her on police probation for five years following her release from prison. She, as well as the other 30 defendants, were denied their rights to adequate defense, not to self-incriminate, and to genuine review by a higher tribunal. Verdicts by ESSCs are not subject to appeal. Only the president retains the power to authorize, quash or commute sentences, or to order a retrial.

On June 8, 2023, her family learned that she was transferred to 10th of Ramadan prison from al-Qanater women's prison; and were able to visit her for the first time since August 2022. She told them during the visit that prison authorities in al-Qanater women's prison confiscated all her belongings including medicine and a radio before the transfer. The confiscation of the radio means that she no longer has access to news in 10th of Ramadan prison.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: March 21, 2024

NAME AND PRONOUN: Hoda Abdelmoniem (she/her)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/7035/2023/en/