

URGENT ACTION

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.

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 *Fifteenth Urgent Action 132.19*. 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 Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Office of the President Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Email: p.spokesman@op.gov.eg
Twitter: [@AlsisiOfficial](https://twitter.com/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,

I am concerned over the prolonged unjust imprisonment of prominent Egyptian-British activist, **Alaa Abdel Fattah**. He is serving an unjust five-year prison sentence imposed on December 20, 2021, where he was convicted on bogus charges, following a grossly unfair trial.

According to his sister, **Sanaa Seif**, Alaa Abdel Fattah's conditions of detention have improved in recent months. However, authorities continue to deny him access to his lawyers, consular visits from the British authorities, and phone calls to his family. Prison authorities have also denied Alaa Abdel Fattah access to fresh air and sunlight since 2019. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, family visits are limited to once a month for twenty minutes behind a glass barrier and through a headset. Alaa Abdel Fattah has thus been unable to communicate with his son, who is autistic and nonverbal.

I urge you 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. He must be granted a consular visit without further delay.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Alaa Abdel Fattah, a well-known political activist and government critic, has been repeatedly arrested during the past decade, including for his role in the 2011 uprising. On September 29, 2019, he was from Dokki police station in Greater Cairo, where he was forced to spend 12 hours every night following his release on probation in March 2019, after having served another unjust five-year prison sentence. Later that day, human rights lawyer, Mohamed Baker, was arrested while attending the investigation session of his client Alaa Abdel Fattah. Alaa Abdel Fattah and Mohamed Baker were ordered into pretrial detention pending investigations into bogus terrorism-related charges.

Alaa Abdel Fattah was held in inhumane conditions at the Tora Maximum Security 2 Prison, in Cairo, from September 2019 to May 2022. Prison authorities held him in a small, poorly ventilated cell and denied him a bed and mattress. The prison authorities also denied him reading materials, exercise in the prison yard, adequate clothing, radios, watches, access to hot water, and any personal belongings, including family photos. On May 12, 2022, Alaa Abdel Fattah told his mother that he was beaten while handcuffed by the deputy prison warden at Tora Maximum Security 2 prison. On May 18, 2022, he was transferred to Wadi al-Natroun Prison after significant public pressure.

On July 19, 2023, following sustained supporter mobilization, Mohamed Baker received a presidential pardon after nearly four years of arbitrary detention stemming solely from his human rights work. Since the President's reactivation of the Presidential Pardons Committee in April 2022, the Egyptian authorities released high-profile prisoners of conscience and hundreds of others held for political reasons. However, thousands remain arbitrarily detained solely for exercising their human rights, or following grossly unfair trials, or without legal basis.

During UN Climate Change Conference (COP27), a chorus of voices called on the Egyptian authorities to release Alaa Abdel Fattah who was on hunger strike for seven months when the event started on November 6, 2022. Alaa Abdel Fattah began his hunger strike on April 2, 2022, to protest his unjust imprisonment and denial of consular visits. On November 1, 2022, he escalated his hunger strike and stopped consuming the 100 calories he had been consuming since April and on November 6, 2022, he stopped drinking water. On November 11, 2022, Alaa Abdel Fattah lost consciousness in the shower, and when he regained it, he was held by a cellmate, surrounded by a large crowd, and had a tube inserted into his body. Following this event, he decided not to resume his hunger strike immediately, but vowed to continue if "there continues to be no real movement on his case."

On November 14, 2023, Alaa Abdel Fattah's family filed an urgent appeal with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention over his continuing and unjust imprisonment.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: April 18, 2024

NAME AND PRONOUN: Alaa Abdel Fattah (he/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/7098/2023/en/>