

URGENT ACTION

POLITICIAN'S SON UNJUSTLY JAILED FOR A DECADE

Anas al-Beltagy has been arbitrarily detained for over a decade solely due to his family affiliation. Since his arrest in December 2013, the Egyptian authorities have subjected him to a catalogue of human rights violations including enforced disappearance and torture and other ill-treatment. Since his transfer to the 10th of Ramadan Prison on June 8, 2023, he has been held in prolonged solitary confinement and denied any prison visits. His only contact with the outside world is through his appearances via video link at his pre-trial detention renewal hearings. During his last hearing held in November 2023, he was interrupted by the judge and his audio was muted while he was complaining about his treatment and prison conditions, raising further concerns about his wellbeing. He 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 *Third Urgent Action 29.23*. 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.

President Abdelfattah al-Sisi
Office of the President
Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Email: p.spokesman@op.gov.eg;
Twitter/X: [@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,

Anas al-Beltagy, 30, has been arbitrarily detained for over 10 years solely because he is the son of prominent Muslim Brotherhood leader and former parliamentarian **Mohamed al-Beltagy**. Despite courts acquitting him of all charges in four separate cases and a judge's decision to provisionally release him in a fifth case, he continues to be held in pre-trial detention pending investigations into a sixth case on similar spurious terrorism-related accusations. Since his arrest in December 2013, Anas al-Beltagy has been subjected to several human rights violations including enforced disappearance and torture and other ill-treatment. As Anas al-Beltagy has been banned from any prison visits and other communication since 2017, his family and lawyers only have limited information about him. They have learned that since he has been held in solitary confinement and banned from exercising outdoors or interacting with other prisoners.

I urge you 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. Pending his release, I call on you to ensure that he is held in conditions meeting international standards for the treatment of prisoners and granted regular access to his family, lawyers, and adequate healthcare.

Yours sincerely,

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**. 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 from a friend's house. 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. 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, where he continued to be subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. He was transferred to the Badr Prison Complex in November 2022.

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 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, he complained about the deterioration of his physical and mental health and psychological condition due to his detention conditions. Such hearings 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 was present. His lawyers said that the judge presiding over his detention renewal hearings has dismissed 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.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: March 7, 2024

NAME AND PRONOUN: Anas al-Beltagy (he, his)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/7089/2023/en/>