

# URGENT ACTION

## UNJUSTLY HELD STUDENT DENIED PROSTHETIC LEG

Oqba Hashad has been arbitrarily detained without trial for over four years and six months solely for his brother's human rights activism. Security forces subjected him to enforced disappearance for 77 days, during which they tortured him including through severe beatings, electric shocks, and suspension in contorted positions. Authorities in Wadi al-Natroun prison, where he is held, continue to deny him access to adequate health care, including for his right leg, amputated above the knee from his childhood, and for which he needs a prosthetic leg to move. Since his prosthetic leg broke in August 2022, prison authorities have denied him a replacement as well as the medicine and antiseptics he needs for his stump care.

### 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 **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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Office of the Public Prosecutor; Madinat al-Rehab; Cairo,  
Arab Republic of Egypt  
Fax: +202 2577 4716;  
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**Egyptian Embassy in the United States**  
**Ambassador Motaz Mounir Zahran**  
3521 International Court, NW, Washington DC 20008  
Phone: (202) 895-5400  
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Dear Counsellor,

**Oqba Hashad**, a 26-year-old university student, has been arbitrarily detained for four years and six months without trial, solely due to the human rights activism of his brother Amr Hashad, who left Egypt in 2019. Following his arbitrary arrest on May 20, 2019, from his university accommodation in Sadat City, Menoufia governorate, without an arrest warrant, security forces forcibly disappeared Oqba Hashad for 77 days, during which period he was subjected to torture and other ill treatment. On August 1, 2019, he was ordered to pre-trial detention pending investigations. Since then, his pre-trial detention has been extended without the opportunity to meaningfully challenge the lawfulness of his detention.

Since August 2022, prison authorities have denied Oqba Hashad access to adequate healthcare and a prosthetic leg. After his prosthetic leg broke in August 2022, prison authorities refuse to deliver the prosthetic leg his family repaired. He has been denied antiseptics and sterilization tools needed to care for his stump.

I urge you to ensure that Oqba Hashad is immediately and unconditionally released and all charges against him dropped as he is detained solely as a punishment for his brother's activism. Pending his release, he must be granted regular access to his family, lawyers, and adequate healthcare.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Oqba Hashad** was studying business at the University of Sadat City (USC), in Menoufia governorate, prior to his arrest. On May 20, 2019, National Security Agency (NSA) agents stormed his student residence and arrested everyone without a warrant. All other students were released within days, except for Oqba Hashad. His brother Amr Hashad, a human rights activist and legal researcher, fled Egypt in 2019 after his release from prison. From exile, Amr Hashad continued to document human rights violations in Egypt including enforced disappearances and cruel and inhuman detention conditions in Egyptian prisons. Oqba Hashad's mother was also detained and questioned for nine hours during a visit to Shebin Al-Kom prison, where Oqba Hashad was held at the time, in a relation to a Facebook post written by Amr Hashad in December 2020 about his brother being banned from accessing his prosthetic leg and the injustices suffered by their family.

Oqba Hashad is currently detained in the Wadi El Natroun prison. On August 7, 2022, relatives of Oqba Hashad's cellmate, who had visited the prison that day, called Oqba Hashad's family to inform them that his prosthetic leg had broken. His family rushed to the prison to collect the broken prosthetic leg, and took it for repairs at a specialized clinic, where a doctor and an engineer told them that a replacement was needed. 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 will submit it for further inspections. To date, the authorities have not returned the repaired prosthetic leg to him or secured a replacement.

As a state party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Egypt must fulfill its obligations to ensure that when persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty, they are entitled to guarantees in accordance with international human rights law and are provided with reasonable accommodation and with health services specifically because of their disabilities.

On 3 September 2021, United Nations experts, including the Special Rapporteur's on the situation of human rights defenders, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment sent a letter to the Egyptian authorities highlighting the enforced disappearance and prolonged arbitrary detention of Oqba Hashad.

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

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** January 27, 2024

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Oqba Hashad (He/Him)