

URGENT ACTION

FATHER UNJUSTLY JAILED IN RELATION TO PROTESTS

Badr Mohamed, aged 28, has spent over four years arbitrarily detained in connection to the Ramsis Square protests which took place on August 16, 2013, when he was 17 years old. In January 2023, he was sentenced to an unjust five-year prison sentence following a grossly unfair trial. He is held in Badr 1 prison in cruel and inhuman conditions of detention amid extreme heat, as well as lack of sufficient food. The Egyptian authorities must quash Badr Mohamed's sentence, immediately release him, and allow him to travel to Austria to be reunited with his wife and his three-year-old daughter, who was born while he was behind bars.

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 **Second Urgent Action 73.23**. 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 Fax: +202 2391 1441
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

Your Excellency or Dear Ambassador,

I am writing to express my concern over the arbitrary detention of **Badr Mohamed**, who was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison on January 12, 2023 in connection to the 2013 protests in Ramsis Square, following a grossly unfair trial in front of a terrorism circuit of the Cairo Criminal Court. He was denied the rights to adequate defense, to equality of arms, and to cross-examine witnesses against him, and to call witnesses on his behalf. During the trial hearings, Badr Mohamed was kept inside a glass cage where he could not fully observe, hear, or speak during proceedings. He could not communicate with his lawyer privately through the pretrial and trial phases.

Badr Mohamed is detained in Badr 1 prison, known for its cruel and inhuman detention conditions. He is only allowed short family visits once a month. He is held in a small, cramped cell with four other people. There is no fresh air in the cell and temperatures reach over 40°C in the summer. Badr Mohamed is allowed out of his cell between three and four times a week for less than an hour.

Detainees are forced to buy food from the prison canteen at their own expense. Prisoners are also subjected to camera surveillance and fluorescent lights round the clock, which causes severe pain and suffering and violates the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment.

I urge you to quash Badr Mohamed's unjust conviction and sentence, immediately release him from arbitrary detention, and allow him to travel abroad to be reunited with his family in Austria. Pending his release, he must be granted access to his family, lawyers, and adequate healthcare and held in conditions that meet international standards for the treatment of prisoners.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Security forces arrested **Badr Mohamed** on August 16, 2013 in connection to the Ramsis Square protests, when he was 17 years old. Amnesty International [documented](#) the excessive force used by security forces against protesters and bystanders during these protests, resulting in the death of 97 protesters. Badr Mohamed was arbitrarily detained with adults in Wadi al-Natron prison and transferred to a juvenile detention facility three months later, where he remained until his release on bail in November 2013. Under international law and standards, the arrest, detention, or imprisonment of children should only be used as a measure of last resort; must be subject to regular review and be for the shortest appropriate duration; and alternatives to detention should be used whenever possible. On August 18, 2017, Badr Mohamed was sentenced to five years in prison in his absence on charges of murder of police officers, attempted murder, “destroying public property”, “protesting without authorization”, “attacking the security forces”, and “hindering the work of national institutions”, among other charges. He was tried in a [grossly unfair mass trial](#) that included 494 defendants, 43 of whom were sentenced to life imprisonment, while 399 were sentenced to between five and 15 years in prison, including eight children. The verdict, examined by Amnesty International, heavily relied on investigations and eyewitness accounts by security forces and other government officials.

Security forces arrested Badr Mohammed in front of his wife, an Austrian national, during a Ramadan breaking of the fast (Iftar) on May 11, 2020. He was referred to retrial before a terrorism circuit of a Cairo Criminal Court in July 2020. According to lawyers, new defendants were arrested and/or added to the case every month, which delayed court proceedings considerably. On January 12, 2023, Badr Mohamed was sentenced to five years in prison. Similar to the original verdict issued in August 2017, the presiding judge in the retrial relied on secret reports by security forces, to which defendants and their lawyers did not have access to. Lawyers raised concerns that no material evidence was presented in relation to Badr Mohamed’s alleged participation in protests or violent acts. Amnesty International learned from Badr Mohamed’s lawyers that the court dismissed statements by defense witnesses that he did not take part in the protests.

Amnesty International learned from human rights organizations and other informed sources that at least dozens of prisoners in Badr 1 prison have been on hunger strike since early June 2024 to protest their cruel and inhuman detention conditions. The hunger strike appears to have been triggered by a sharp rise in temperatures, reaching over 40°C, amid the prison authorities’ refusal to allow prisoners to have fans and daily power cuts introduced by the government nationwide in response to the energy crisis. Detainees are also protesting the lack of access to adequate healthcare, and what they describe as humiliating body searches imposed by prison officials when prisoners leave their cells. Other commonly reported complaints include the ill-treatment of families during prison visits, including forcing them to wait in the sun for hours; the reduction in the time allotted to prisoners for exercising outside the cell; and restrictions on family visits.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: January 19, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Badr Mohamed (He/Him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/7047/2023/en/>