

# URGENT ACTION

## PROMINENT ACTIVIST RISKS INDEFINITE DETENTION

On September 29, 2024, prominent Egyptian-British activist, Alaa Abdel Fattah, will have been imprisoned for the length of his unjust five-year prison sentence, amid fears that Egyptian authorities will refuse to release him. 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, has been subjected to a litany of human rights violations including arbitrary detention, unfair trial, torture and other ill-treatment, and periodic bans on family visits. Alaa Abdel Fattah is a prisoner of conscience who 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 **Sixteenth 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](mailto:p.spokesman@op.gov.eg);  
Twitter: [@AlsisiOfficial](https://twitter.com/AlsisiOfficial)

### Egyptian Embassy in the United States

**Ambassador Motaz Zahran**  
3521 International Court, NW,  
Washington DC 20008  
Email: [embassy@egyptembassy.net](mailto:embassy@egyptembassy.net)

Your Excellency,

Prominent Egyptian-British activist, **Alaa Abdel Fattah**, who has been detained since September 29, 2019, is serving an unjust five-year prison sentence following his conviction in a grossly unfair trial. In December 2021, an Emergency State Security Court (ESSC) convicted him on bogus charges of “spreading false news” for sharing a social media post under Case No. 1228/2021.

Following supporter mobilization and public outcries during COP27 held in Egypt in 2022, Alaa Abdel Fattah’s conditions of detention and overall health have improved especially after his transfer to the Wadial-Natroun prison in May 2022. However, authorities keep denying him access to his lawyer whom he has not seen since March 2020. Authorities also continue to deny him consular visits from the British authorities as well as phone calls to his family. Since 2019, prison officials have also denied Alaa Abdel Fattah access to sunlight and fresh air.

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 access 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, National Security Agency (NSA) officers arrested him 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 from a prosecution office 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 under Case No.1356/2019 of the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP), a branch of the Public Prosecution specialized in investigating national security threats.

The SSSP opened investigations into similar charges against them under new Case No. 1228/2021 as part of a strategy increasingly used by the authorities, referred to as "rotation", to circumvent the two-year limit for pre-trial detention allowed under Egyptian law and to indefinitely extend the detention of activists. Their trial in Case No. 1228/2021 started on October 28, 2021, together with another defendant: blogger and activist, Mohamed Ibrahim Radwan "Oxygen". Mohamed Baker and "Oxygen" were convicted on charges of "spreading false news" in relation to social media posts and sentenced to four years' imprisonment. Proceedings before emergency courts are inherently unfair as their verdicts are not subject to appeal by a higher tribunal. Defense lawyers were prevented from communicating with defendants in private and photocopying the casefiles and indictments.

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.

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.

On November 14, 2023, Alaa Abdel Fattah's family have filed an urgent [appeal](#) with the United Nations 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:** March 25, 2025

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

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/7744/2024/en/>.