

URGENT ACTION

UNJUSTLY JAILED LAWYER'S HEALTH AT RISK

The health of human rights lawyer, Hoda Abdelmoniem, has been deteriorating throughout her arbitrary detention for more than six years. On August 28, 2024, she informed her family during a prison visit that she was diagnosed with diabetes. Hoda Abdelmoniem was due to be released on October 31, 2023 after serving her unjust five-year prison sentence stemming solely from the exercise of her human rights. Instead, the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) ordered her pretrial detention pending investigations into similar bogus terrorism-related charges in a separate case No. 730 of 2020.

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 ***Ninth Urgent Action 190.18***. 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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Your Excellency,

Human rights lawyer, **Hoda Abdelmoniem**, aged 65, has been arbitrarily detained for more than six years, solely in relation to her human rights work. Hoda Abdelmoniem, who was arrested on November 1, 2018, was due to be released on October 31, 2023, after serving her five-year unjust prison sentence imposed by an Emergency State Security Court (ESSC). Instead, on the same day, October 31, 2023, she was taken before a Supreme State Security Prosecution prosecutor, who interrogated her in relation to a separate case (No. 730 of 2020) and ordered her pretrial detention. Her pretrial detention has been renewed since, without allowing her to meaningfully challenge the legality of her detention. The court last renewed her detention for 45 days on November 5, 2024, during an online hearing.

On August 28, 2024, during a prison visit, she told her family that she was diagnosed with diabetes and that the prison hospital has been providing her with medication. Prison authorities continue to deny her relatives access to her medical records and refuse to transfer her to an outside hospital for specialized healthcare. Hoda Abdelmoniem's health has been deteriorating throughout her detention.

I urge you to ensure that Hoda Abdelmoniem is immediately and unconditionally released and that all charges against her dropped as they stem solely from the exercise of her human rights. Pending her release, I call on you to ensure that she is provided with access to the healthcare she needs, including outside prison, if necessary, as well as regular access to her family and lawyer.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On November 1, 2018, National Security Agency forces (NSA) broke into the house of Hoda Abdelmoniem in Cairo at 1:30 am, ransacked it, and took her away blindfolded. She was subjected to enforced disappearance for three weeks after her arrest until she was brought to the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) for investigation. She was then taken back to an undisclosed location. Her family briefly saw her again on November 24 and 28, 2018 at the SSSP office. She was subjected to enforced disappearance again between December 2, 2018 and January 14, 2019, as authorities refused to disclose her whereabouts to relatives and lawyers.

On November 30, 2020, her family learned from other prisoners' relatives that she was taken to the prison hospital before being transferred to an external hospital after suffering from severe pain. While her family has been denied access to her medical records by prison authorities and therefore doesn't have detailed information about her condition, they were informed by other prisoners' families that one of her kidneys had failed, while the other was functioning poorly. On December 1, 2020, the Ministry of Interior publicly claimed that she has been provided with healthcare and does not suffer from serious medical conditions. During a court hearing held on October 11, 2021, she told the judges that the prison doctor said she required a cardiac catheterization and requested her release on medical grounds.

On March 5, 2023, an Emergency State Security Court (ESSC) convicted 30 defendants and sentenced them to prison terms ranging from five years to life; one defendant was acquitted. Hoda Abdelmoniem was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on charges of joining, financing, and supporting a "terrorist group". She and the 30 other defendants were added to the "list of terrorists". Verdicts by ESSCs are not subject to appeal. Only the president retains the power to authorize, quash or commute sentences, or to order a retrial.

On June 8, 2023, her family learned that she was transferred to 10th of Ramadan prison from al-Qanater women's prison; and were able to visit her for the first time since August 2022. She told them during the visit that prison authorities in al-Qanater women's prison confiscated of all her belongings including medicine and a radio before the transfer. The confiscation of the radio means that she no longer has access to news in 10th of Ramadan prison.

On October 25, 2021, President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi announced that he would not extend the state of emergency, in force since 2017, which allowed for the creation of ESSCs. Article 19 of the law governing the state of emergency stipulates that ongoing trials are to continue even after the state of emergency is no longer in force. Fair trial violations include the right to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of their defence, right to communicate with counsel of own choosing, and right to a public hearing. Judges at the ESSC routinely deny requests by lawyers to photocopy casefiles, which in some cases exceed 2,000 pages, instead instruct them to review them in court.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: May 13, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Hoda Abdelmoniem (she/her).

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-unjustly-jailed-lawyer-faces-new-charges-egypt-190-18/>