Egypt: Immediately and unconditionally release prominent political activist Mohamed Adel





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The undersigned human rights organizations reiterate their call on the Egyptian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release prominent political activist and former spokesperson of the <u>April 6 Youth Movement</u>, Mohamed Adel, amid mounting concern over his cruel and inhuman detention conditions and denial of adequate medical care. Mohamed Adel has already been arbitrarily detained for five years solely for exercising his rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

In March 2024, National Security Agency (NSA) officials threatened to place Mohamed Adel in solitary confinement or transfer him to a different prison with notoriously cruel detention conditions, in retaliation against his request for better prison conditions.

Since 30 May 2022, the Egyptian authorities have been denying Mohamed Adel access to medical care for his various health conditions, including peripheral neuropathy, inflammation in the knee joints and chest pains that were never diagnosed due to lack of access to specialized doctors. The Gamassa prison authorities, where he is held, also deprive Mohamed Adel of access to adequate food, further negatively affecting his health. The prison authorities also continue to ban him from having access to any books in violation of the Egyptian prison laws and regulations.

Mohamed Adel spent five years in abusive and arbitrary pretrial detention between 2018 and 2023. In September 2023, a misdemeanour court in Aga, Mansoura governorate, convicted him of spreading "false news" on social media and sentenced him to four years in prison in a case stemming solely from his peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression. According to one of his defence lawyers, Mohamed Adel will complete his prison term in September 2027, as his pretrial detention is related to investigations into a separate case into similar bogus charges.

Mohamed Adel is also facing other open criminal investigations in relation to the peaceful exercise of his human rights, which may enable the authorities to keep him in prison following the completion of his prison sentence.

The Egyptian authorities have been targeting Mohamed Adel for over a decade. Mohamed Adel already served an unjust three-year prison sentence following his wrongful conviction in relation to his participation in unauthorized protests in 2013 under the draconian Law No. 107 of 2013, which effectively criminalized peaceful protests. A year and a half after his release, during which he was subjected to abusive probation measures, he was re-arrested in June 2018 over his peaceful exercise of his human rights.

Mohamed Adel's case shows the escalating crackdown on civic space and relentless targeting of peaceful activists in Egypt, punishing them simply for exercising their right to express their opinions in an attempt to crush any form of dissent.

We therefore urge the immediate and unconditional release of Mohamed Adel from detention. His case is emblematic of the authorities' targeting of activists based on their opinions and peaceful activism.

We also call on the Egyptian authorities to end the arbitrary detention and unjust prosecution of all political activists, members of opposition parties, trade unionists, workers, protesters, journalists, lawyers, social media users, and others detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights.



The signatory organizations

MENA

Egyptian Front for Human Rights (EFHR)

El Nadeem Center

Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD)

Intersection Association for rights and freedoms

Egyptian Human Rights Forum (EHRF)

Sinai Foundation for Human Rights

HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement

MENA Rights Group

The Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM)

Refugees Platform in Egypt

Egyptian Coordination for Rights and Freedoms

Committee for Justice

Law and Democracy Support Foundation (LDSF)

Syrians for Truth and Justice (STJ)

Access Center for Human Rights (ACHR)

Lebanese institute for Democracy and Human Rights (LIFE)

Frontliners for Change (FFC)

Ceasar Files for Justice (FL4J)

Adala For All

EgyptWide for Human Rights

EuroMed Rights (EMR)

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

Humain Rights Tunisian League (LTDH)

Massar Families Association

Middle East Democracy Center (MEDC)

Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms

Tunisian Association defending individual liberties

Egyptian Network for Human Rights

Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression (AFTE)

Rescue Committee, The Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights

Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)

Gohoud to Support Human Rights Defenders

The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP)

Salam for Democracy and Human Rights

Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)

Innovation for Change MENA

Syrian Female Journalists Network

Women for Justice Foundation-WJF

El-Shehab For Human Rights (SHR)

Global

Amnesty International

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Progressives for Climate

International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

Access Now

Fair Square

REDRESS

Freedom House

PEN International

World Movement for Democracy

CIVICUS

World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)

International Committee of Jurists (ICJ)

Africa

African Defenders

Université populaire africaine en Suisse (UPAF,ch)

Hope Behind Bars Africa



The Public Interest Practice

KUTAKESA

Coalition Burundaise des Defenseurs des droits de l'Homme(CBDDH)

Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network

Gender Centre for Empowering Development (GenCED)

Réseau des Défenseurs des Droits Humains en Afrique Centrale (REDHAC)

West African Human Rights Defenders' Network

Coalition Burkinabè des Défenseurs des Droits Humains (CBDDH)

Coalition Ivoirienne des Défenseurs des Droits Humains (CIDDH)

Asia

Asia Democracy Network (ADN)

South Asia Youth Network

Sri Lanka Democracy Network

Human Rights Hub

Latin America

Unidosc Mexico

Sindicato de Prensa de Buenos Aires (SiPreBA)

MARBE S.A.

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)

North America

FIACONA (Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America)

Europe

CRAN - Observatoire du racisme anti-Noir en Suisse

Yoga and Sport With Refugees

CNCD-11.11.11

International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)



ABOUT STJ

Syrians for Truth and Justice (STJ) started as an idea in a co-founder's mind while attending the U.S. Middle-East Partnership Initiative's (MEPI) Leaders for Democracy Fellowship program (LDF) in 2015. The idea became a reality and flourished into an independent, non-profit, impartial, non-governmental human rights organization.

STJ's beginnings were more than humble; initially, it only reported stories of Syrians who experienced arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, or torture. Planted in fertile soil, the seed of this project grew into an established human rights organization licensed in the Middle East and the European Union. STJ today undertakes to detect and uncover violations of all types committed in all Syrian parts by the various parties to the conflict.

Convinced that Syria's diversity is a wealth, our researchers and volunteers serve with unfailing dedication to monitor, expose, and document human rights violations that continue unabated in Syria since 2011, regardless of the affiliation of the victims or perpetrators.