

URGENT ACTION

PRISONER IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ON HUNGER STRIKE

Ahmed Amin Ghazali Amin has been on hunger strike since 9 March, in protest against his solitary confinement, which he has been held in since May 2016, when he was sentenced to death by a Military Court. An appeal hearing is still due to be set. If rejected, he could be executed at any time.

On 9 March, **Ahmed Amin Ghazali Amin** went on hunger strike to demand the end of his prolonged solitary confinement. He has been held in solitary confinement since May 2016 when he, along with seven other men in Case 174 of 2015 (known by the media as the “advanced operations committee case”), was sentenced to death by a Military Court after being convicted for belonging to a banned group (the Muslim Brotherhood), being in possession of firearms and explosives, and obtaining classified military information without authorization.

In December 2016, Ahmed Amin Ghazali Amin, along with five co-defendants, filed a petition to appeal their conviction. The Supreme Military Court is now due to set a date for the appeal hearing. The Supreme Military Court has in the past rejected appeals in military cases without holding a hearing. If their appeal is unsuccessful, the men could be executed at any time.

Since May 2016, according to his family and lawyers, Ahmed Amin Ghazali Amin has been confined to a two by one and a half meter cell in al-Aqrab maximum security prison in Cairo, the Egyptian capital. His time outside his cell is restricted to one 15 minute bathroom visit a day. He sleeps on the floor, with few covers, has inadequate food, and is only allowed visitation once every 40 days. His health is also deteriorating. On 16 March, he passed out and was transferred to the under-equipped prison clinic. Despite numerous requests made by his family, the prison authorities have yet to transfer him to the prison hospital to receive the medical care he requires.

The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) prohibit prolonged and indefinite solitary confinement, categorising them as forms of “restrictions or disciplinary sanctions [that] amount to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment” which must not be applied under any circumstances.

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Calling on the Egyptian authorities to retry all those convicted in the case before an ordinary, civilian court, without recourse to the death penalty, and in proceedings that respect international fair trial standards and exclude “confessions” and other evidence obtained through torture and other ill-treatment;
- Calling on them to end Ahmed Amin Ghazali Amin’s solitary confinement, ensuring he is held in humane conditions and protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and granted access to adequate medical care.
- Urging them to establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 April 2017 TO:

Minister of Interior
Minister Magdy Abde el-Ghaffar
Ministry of Interior
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
F: +202 2794 5529
E: center@moi.gov.eg or
HumanRightsSector@moi.gov.eg
Salutation: Your Excellency

President
President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Office of the President
Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax +202 2391 1441
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:
Defence Minister
Colonel General Sedqi Sobhi
Ministry of Defence
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
F: +202 2 414 4248 / +202 2 414 4247
E: mc@afmic.gov.eg and
mod@afmic.gov.eg

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR NASSER AHMED KAMEL ALI, Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 26 South Street W1K 1DW, 020 7499 3304/2401, Fax 020 7491 1542, eg.emb_london@mfa.gov.eg and etembuk@hotmail.com

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the fourth update of UA 91/16. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/5490/2017/en/

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Following an earlier hunger strike, Ahmed Amin Ghazali Amin was transferred temporarily from 11 December 2016 to 8 February 2017 to Shibin el-Kom prison in Monofiya Governorate, north of Cairo, to take his University exams, where he continued to be held in solitary confinement. He has since been transferred back to al-Aqrab prison. He has pleaded with the prison authorities to end his solitary confinement on two occasions but his calls have gone unanswered.

On 29 May 2016, an Egyptian military court convicted 26 men in Case 174 of 2015 of belonging to a banned group (the Muslim Brotherhood), being in possession of firearms and explosives, and obtaining classified military information without authorization, and acquitted two. Eight were sentenced to death while 18 received prison terms ranging from 15 to 25 years. According to their lawyers the court ignored many of the men's complaints of enforced disappearance and their request for an investigation by forensic officials to be carried out into their allegations of torture. The men's families and lawyers told Amnesty International that the men had wounds that included burns and bruises on their bodies, as well as injuries to their hands.

Security forces arrested the men between 28 May and 7 June 2015 and subjected them to enforced disappearance, in some cases for periods of over six weeks. Eighteen of the defendants were detained at the Military Intelligence headquarters in Nasr City, Cairo, while one defendant was held at al-Azouly Military Prison, inside a military camp in Ismailia Governorate. Eight suspects who were not arrested were tried in their absence.

The men's families told Amnesty International that, during the period of enforced disappearance, they asked police stations, prisons, and prosecutors' offices for further information, but the authorities either denied that the men were in their custody or ignored their requests. It was only after they saw a televised video by the Defence Ministry on 10 July 2015, announcing the arrests of "the most dangerous terrorist cell" in Egypt that the families learnt that the men were in military custody. The video included footage of detainees "confessing" to belonging to banned groups and attacking military institutions.