

EGYPT

AZZA SOLIMAN

Women's rights lawyer faces imprisonment

Prominent lawyer Azza Soliman has dedicated her life to defending victims of torture, arbitrary detention, domestic abuse, and rape. She co-founded two organisations, the Centre for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance and Lawyers for Justice and Peace, to provide women in poverty and survivors of abuse with legal aid, support, and literacy lessons.

The authorities have responded to Azza's courageous work by labelling her a 'spy' and a 'threat' to national security. She has been put under surveillance, targeted by smear campaigns, and harassed by security forces and pro-government media outlets.

Azza now faces three trumped-up charges as part of the politically motivated Case 173 (the 'foreign funding case'), which targets NGOs: tax evasion, operating a civil society organisation without proper registration, and slandering Egypt's image and reputation by claiming Egyptian women are at risk of rape. Her assets were frozen and she was banned from travelling. If found guilty, Azza faces imprisonment.

'We have decided to carry on despite the injustice and darkness that are rampant in Egypt today.'

Azza Soliman



Illustration by Rebecca Hendin: rebeccahendin.com



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SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Azza Soliman
19A Oboor apartments
Salah Salem
Masr el-Gedida
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

- » **Language:** English or Arabic
- » **Suggested messages:** Dear Azza, you are not alone, we are here in solidarity with you. Or: Dear Azza, thank you for all your efforts, with love from.

CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **Yes**
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **No**
- » Include my name and address? **Yes**

Due to the political situation in Egypt, please do not send letters from Israel, Turkey or Qatar.

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to drop all the charges against Azza Soliman.

- » **Write to:**
President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Office of the President
Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
- » **Salutation:** Your Excellency
- » **In your letter:** Urge him to immediately and unconditionally drop the charges against Azza Soliman, and lift her travel ban and asset freeze orders. Call for him to drop Case 173, and lift all travel bans and asset freeze orders against human rights defenders and organisations. Also call for reform of the draconian NGO bill and for the current law to be amended to protect the right to freedom of association.

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