

AMNESTY LETTER APRIL 2020

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din, a young researcher and human rights defender, had been documenting forced evictions and calling for safe and affordable housing for all Egyptians. His arrest was part of a government crackdown in Egypt where anyone who speaks against the government is at risk of imprisonment without fair trial. On the night of 11th June 2019, Ibrahim was taken by plain-clothed policemen from a street near his home. When his family enquired about his whereabouts at the local police station, the authorities denied that he was in custody. 167 days later on 26th November, Ibrahim was brought before the Supreme State Security Prosecution and is said to have been tortured during his forced disappearance. There are rising fears over the spread of COVID 19 in Egyptian prisons, which are unhygienic, over-crowded and insanitary. Ibrahim is at particular risk according to the WHO's list of vulnerable groups, because he suffers from chronic allergies that cause respiratory difficulties and also various other health problems.

SPECIMEN LETTER (Please feel free to put into your own words)

Public Prosecutor Hamada al-Sawi
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Madinat al-Rehab
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

Dear Counsellor

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din

I am writing to express my concern at the continued imprisonment of Ibrahim Ezz El-Din, a young researcher and human rights defender, who in June 2019 was taken by plain clothes policemen from a street near his home. His family enquired at the local police station who denied that he was in custody. 167 Days later on 26th November, he was brought before the Supreme State Security Prosecution and is said to have been tortured while in detention.

There are rising fears over the spread of COVID 19 in Egyptian prisons. Ibrahim Ezz El-Din is at particular risk according to the WHO's list of vulnerable groups, because he suffers from chronic allergies that cause respiratory difficulties and he has other health problems. In February 2020, he attempted suicide. A request from his lawyer for him to receive psychiatric help from outside the prison was refused.

I urge you to release Ibrahim Ezz El-Din immediately and unconditionally as his detention relates solely to his peaceful human rights work. As his health problems put him at increased risk of COVID-19, I call upon you to ensure that, pending his release, he has access to adequate health care including psychiatric help. I also ask that you undertake an investigation into his enforced disappearance and his alleged torture.

Yours sincerely