

11 March 2019

Egypt: Trans woman human rights defender, Malak Al Kashif, detained and charged

On 10 March 2019 human rights defender **Malak Al Kashif** was found to be detained at Al Haram Police Station. She had been held in solitary confinement there for the three days since her appearance before National Security Prosecution on 7 March 2019. Her lawyer and family did not know where she was being detained during those three days.

[Malak Al-Kashif](#) is a trans woman human rights defender, who defends transgender rights and counters transphobic discrimination. She also works on social and economic rights and, since the train accident in Cairo on 27 February 2019, has been calling for protests in solidarity with the victims and their families. She has denounced the State's approach to dealing with the accident and has called for those responsible for the accident, which caused the deaths of around 25 people, to be held to account.

At dawn on 6 March 2019, Malak Al-Kashif received a phone-call from her mother informing her that she was very ill. When the human rights defender arrived at her family home in Al Haram, she found the security forces, who had seemingly lured her there by forcing her mother place the phone-call. She was detained by the security forces and taken into incommunicado detention for 24 hours.

On 7 March 2019, Malak Al-Kashif appeared before the National Security Prosecution, where she was charged with "aiding a terrorist organization" and "misusing social media to commit a crime punishable by law". The Prosecution ordered that she be remanded in pre-trial detention for 15 days.

Malak Al-Kashif has not been able to obtain official papers reflecting her gender, despite attempting to do so for nearly three years. She is therefore treated as a male in all official papers, which means that she could soon be detained in the men's prison.

Front Line Defenders expresses serious concern for Malak Al-Kashif and condemns her detention, which it believes is solely motivated by her peaceful and legitimate work in defence of human rights in Egypt.

Front Line Defenders urge the authorities in Egypt to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Malak Al-Kashif and drop the charges against her;
2. Ensure that the treatment of Malak Al-Kashif, while in detention, adheres to the conditions set out in the 'Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment', adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988;
3. Provide all necessary medical treatment for Malak Al-Kashif, who is suffering from injuries, particularly to her hand, as a result of a recent accident.
4. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Egypt are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.