

17 December 2018

Egypt: Arrest and detention of human rights defender and lawyer Mohamed Ramadan

On 17 December 2018, the East Alexandria Misdemeanor Appeal Court rejected the appeal presented that day by human rights defender **Mohamed Ramadan** challenging the 15 days detention order made by the public prosecution upon his arrest on 10 December 2018.

[Mohamed Ramadan](#) is a human rights lawyer who previously worked for the **Arabic Network for Human Rights Information** (ANHRI). His activities include legal representation of victims of torture and providing legal assistance to human rights defenders and political prisoners.

On 10 December 2018, Mohamed Ramadan was arrested by plainclothes security officers and is facing several charges including “belonging to a banned group”, “spreading false news through social media” and “provoking social unrest”. The police claim to have seized five yellow jackets during his arrest that they suspect were going to be used in protests against the regime. He was taken to the National Security Agency headquarter in Alexandria and his whereabouts remained unknown to his family and lawyers until he appeared before the public prosecution in Alexandria on 11 December 2018. The public prosecution ordered the 15 days pre-trial detention of the human rights defender.

On 16 December 2018, the Alexandria public security directorate refused to bring Mohamed Ramadan to the court to sign his appeal request. He was only allowed to sign it the following day. The human rights defender also complained about his detention conditions, as he is being held in solitary confinement since his arrest, in a small cell without sanitary facilities.

Mohamed Ramadan was previously subject to judicial harassment. In April 2017, the human rights defender was falsely accused under counter-terrorism law and the Alexandria Criminal Court [sentenced](#) him in absentia to 10 years in prison, followed by five years under house arrest and a five year ban on using the internet. He was released in August 2017.

Front Line Defenders condemns the ongoing detention of human rights defender Mohamed Ramadan, and believes that is solely connected to his legitimate and peaceful work in defending and protecting human rights in Egypt.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Egypt to:

1. Immediately drop all charges against lawyer and human rights defender Mohamed Ramadan and release him, as it is believed that the charges are solely motivated by the human rights defender’s legitimate and peaceful work in defence of human rights;
2. Take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of Mohamed Ramadan and ensure that his treatment, 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. 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.