

## **Egypt: Forced disappearance of human rights defender Ahmed Amasha**

On 17 June 2020, human rights defender **Ahmed Amasha** was arrested from his home in Hilwan, and taken to an unknown location.

[Ahmed Amasha](#) is an Egyptian human rights defender and member of the “Kefaya” opposition movement, a trade unionist and an active environmental rights defender. Amasha is a veterinarian by profession and formerly the head of the veterinarian syndicate.

On 17 June 2020, several police members raided the house of the human rights defender in Hilwan, and arrested him. Ahmed Amasha was taken to an unknown location. During the raid the human rights defender’s phone was confiscated. The family has no information about the condition or the whereabouts of the human rights defender.

Ahmed Amasha has received several threats of arrest. By the end of May 2020 several police forces raided the family house of Ahmed Amasha and aggressively inspected the mobile phone of the human rights defender’s mother. The police officers repeatedly asked the family about the human rights defender’s location.

Ahmed Amasha has long been targeted by the Egyptian authorities. In March 2017, he disappeared following his arrest at a police checkpoint in Cairo, and was tortured by agents of the State Security Investigation Service during the interrogation.

On 4 October 2019, the human rights defender was released from prison under probation, and obliged to report to the police station twice a week.

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned regarding the arrest and forced disappearance of human rights defender Ahmed Amasha. Front Line Defenders believe they are solely motivated by his peaceful and legitimate human rights activities.

### **Front Line Defenders urge the Egyptian authorities to:**

1. Immediately and unconditionally release human rights defender Ahmed Amasha, as Front Line Defenders believes that he is being held solely as a result of his legitimate and peaceful work in the defence of human rights;
2. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the disappearance of Ahmed Amasha with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
3. Take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security Ahmed Amasha;
4. Ensure that the treatment of Ahmed Amasha, 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
5. Return the mobile phone confiscated during the raid, as it is manifestly not linked to any criminal activity;

6. Cease targeting all human rights defenders in Egypt and guarantee in all circumstances that they are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions including judicial harassment.