

21 May 2018

Egypt: Detention and prosecution of labour rights defender Haytham Mohamadeen

On 19 May, Supreme State Security prosecutor ordered the detention of labour rights defender **Haytham Mohamadeen** to 15 days pending investigation on charges of "aiding a terrorist organisation" and "calling for illegal protests".

[Haytham Mohamadeen](#) is a lawyer and a labour rights defender, who offers pro-bono legal aid to workers. He is a member of El-Naddim Centre for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence, an Egyptian NGO dedicated to combating torture and providing medical and legal aid in support of victims of human rights' abuses.

On the night of the 15 May, members of the police and National Security Agency arrested Haytham Mohamadeen at his home in El Saf in Giza Governorate. The human rights defender was detained in an unknown location until he appeared before the Supreme State Security Prosecution in New Cairo's Tagammu El-Khamis District on 19 May. The prosecutor ordered a 15-day detention period pending an investigation on charges of "aiding a terrorist organisation to achieve its goals" and "calling for illegal protests".

Although the human rights defender did not take part in the protests over the rise in metro fares on 12 May, he is being charged under State Security Case no.718/2018, which involves 20 individuals who are also accused of participating in these protests. Haytham Mohamadeen was transferred to the Central Security Forces Camp "Kilo 10.5", which is located on the Cairo-Alexandria desert road.

Haytham Mohamadeen was previously arrested in April 2016 and remained in detention until October 2016 on charges of "joining a banned group, participating in an illegal protest and plotting the overthrow of the ruling government".

Front Line Defenders is seriously concerned about the detention of human rights defender Haytham Mohamadeen and is worried about his safety and physical well being. Front Line Defenders believes that his arrest and ongoing detention are acts of retaliation for his work on labour rights issues and trade unionist rights.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Egypt to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Haytham Mohamadeen, as Front Line Defenders believes that he is being held solely as a result of his legitimate and peaceful human rights work;
2. Ensure that Haytham Mohamadeen's 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;
4. Take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of Haytham Mohamadeen;

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