



Document - Egypt: Government should immediately release Musaad Abu Fagr and Karim Amer



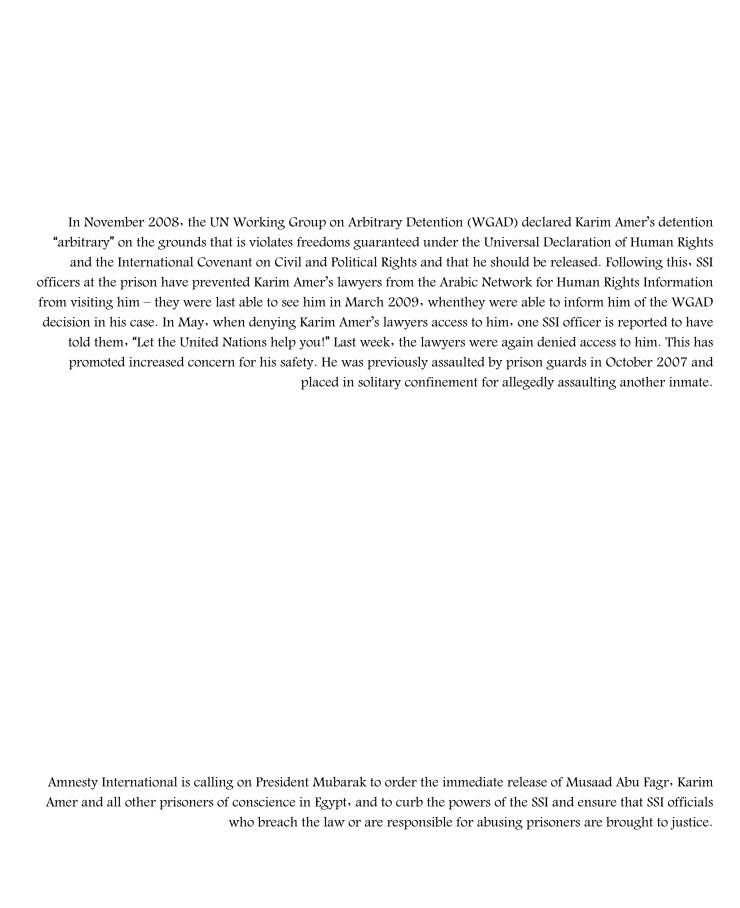
Amnesty International is calling on President Hosni Mubarak to order the immediate and unconditional release of Musaad Abu Fagr and Karim Amer, prisoners of conscience who have both been held for more than 18 months. Musaad Abu Fagr continues to be detained without charge or trial despite repeated court orders for his release, while a leading UN human rights body has declared Karim Amer's imprisonment "arbitrary" and called for his release.





Musaad Abu Fagr, whose real name is Musaad Suliman Hassan Hussein, is a novelist, human rights activist and founder of the Sinai based movement Wedna Na'ish (We Want to Live). He was arrested in December 2007 following demonstrations in al-Arish, North Sinai involving Wedna Na'ishsupporters and others who were demanding the permits to build houses, title to the farmland they work, and the release of Bedouin who had been detained without charge or trial after bomb attacks in Taba, Sharm al Sheikh and Dahab between 2004 and 2006. Two courts in al-Arish acquitted him of "inciting protests" and "resisting the authorities" in February 2008 but he was then served with an administrative detention order issued by the Minister of the Interior using powers provided under Egypt's long-running state of emergency legislation. Lawyers from the Hisham Mubarak Law Center have since obtained several court orders for his release, most recently in June 2009, but these have been effectively ignored by State Security Investigations (SSI) officials who have continued to detain him in breach of the law. He is now being held on his thirteenth successive administrative detention order. This was imposed after a court ordered his release in June; SSI officials in al-Arish failed to comply with the court order, detaining him illegally for several days until a new administrative detention order was issued by the Interior Minister. On 18 July, he was transferred to Borg al-Arab Prison, near Alexandria.

Karim Amer, a blogger who was sentenced to four years in prison in 2007, is also held at Borg al-Arab Prison. He too is a prisoner of conscience. He was tried and imprisoned for criticizing President Mubarak and Egypt's al-Azhar religious authorities in his blog. He was convicted of "inciting strife and defaming Muslims on the internet by describing the Prophet of Islam and his comrades as murderers, which disturbs national peace"; and "insulting the President of the Republic by writing on the internet".





The Source