

18 July 2017

## **Egypt – Judicial harassment of human rights lawyer Asmaa Naiem**

On 11 July 2017, the Manshiya Misdemeanour Court in Alexandria began the trial against human rights lawyer **Asmaa Naiem** and six other individuals, including human rights lawyer **Mohamed Ramadan**, on charges of ‘*acquisition of prohibited leaflets*’, ‘*spreading false news and slander against the state*’, ‘*participating in a demonstration of more than five people without notice*’ and ‘*taking part in an illegal gathering*’.

[Asmaa Naiem](#) is a human rights lawyer and researcher focusing on justice and accountability for human rights abuses as well as women’s rights. She provides legal assistance to political prisoners and detainees. Asmaa Naiem is a member of the Front to Defend Rights and Freedoms, a coalition of NGOs, human rights defenders and journalists, and previously worked for the Egyptian Centre for Economic and Social Rights.

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Front Line Defenders is concerned by the charges against Asmaa Naiem, which it believes to be in connection with her legitimate human rights activities, including monitoring and the provision of legal aid.

### **Front Line Defenders calls upon the Egyptian authorities to:**

1. Immediately drop all charges against Asmaa Naiem as it is believed that they are solely motivated by her legitimate and peaceful work in defence of human rights;
2. 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 including judicial harassment.