

13 September 2019

## **Egypt: Arbitrary detention and torture of human rights defender Abdelrahman Tarek**

On 10 September 2019, human rights defender Abdelrahman Tarek was arbitrarily detained by Egyptian security forces during his daily judicial observation session at the Qasr Al-Neil police station in Cairo. Abdelrahman Tarek was ill-treated and tortured during his time in detention.

[Abdelrahman Tarek](#) is a human rights defender, working with Al-Nedal Centre for Rights and Freedoms. His work includes defending the right to free speech and free expression in Egypt, and the rights of prisoners, especially in cases of forced disappearances.

Since December 2018 Abdelrahman Tarek has been under judicial observation and has been obliged to report to the Qasr Al-Neil police station every evening, spending 12 hours there from 6:30 pm until 6:30 am. On 10 September, while he was at the police station he was disappeared, and one day later he re-appeared at the Supreme State Security Prosecution office, which ordered his detention for 15 days pending further investigation. Since then he has been held at Al-Shoroq police station in Cairo. He will be transferred to Tora prison on 14 September 2019. Abdelrahman Tarek is accused of joining groups deemed illegal by the state, and publishing false news on the political and economic situation in Egypt in order to disturb public order. Following his detention Abdelrahman Tarek was subjected to electric shocks and has been denied family visits.

Abdelrahman Tarek has been frequently harassed, detained and ill-treated by the Egyptian authorities. In 2012 he was charged with organizing demonstrations without a permit, and spent five months in detention. In January 2015, he was detained for four years on the same charge; during his detention he was frequently tortured and subjected to 'discipline' where he was forced to spend seven days in solitary confinement. Abdelrahman Tarek was conditionally released in December 2018, but had to report for 12 hours every evening to a local police station. Abdelrahman Tarek continues to suffer from severe psychological effects as a result of his treatment by the Egyptian police.

Front Line Defenders is extremely concerned by the arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment of human rights defender Abdelrahman Tarek. Front Line Defenders believe that this arbitrary detention is solely motivated by Abdelrahman Tarek's peaceful work in defending human rights in Egypt.

## **Front Line Defenders urge the authorities in Egypt to:**

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Abdelrahman Tarek, 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. Immediately drop all charges against AbdelrahmanTarek as it is believed that they are solely motivated by his legitimate and peaceful work in defence of human rights.
3. Ensure that the treatment of AbdelrahmanTarek, 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. Allow Abdelrahman Tarek immediate and unfettered access to his family and lawyers.
5. 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.