

13 April 2018

Egypt: Blogger and YouTuber Mohamed Ibrahim detained in unknown location

Blogger and YouTuber **Mohamed Ibrahim**, also known as Mohamed Oxygen, remains in detention in an unknown location since he was arrested on 6 April at his home in Maadi, Cairo.

[Mohamed Ibrahim](#) is a human rights defender who runs a [blog](#), [Facebook page](#), and [YouTube channel](#) called Oxygen Egypt where he publishes audio-visual and written reports on human rights issues and political and economic developments in Egypt. He also regularly interviews media personnel, members of the opposition and human rights defenders.

At 3AM on 6 April, members of the security forces arrested Mohamed Ibrahim at his home in Cairo's Maadi neighbourhood and transferred him to an unknown location. The Egyptian authorities have given no reason for detaining the human rights defender and the Ministry of Interior is refusing to give his lawyer information about his whereabouts. Mohamed Ibrahim had posted materials on his blog and YouTube channel in March and early April on National Security's involvement in torture and forced disappearances. He had also voiced criticisms relating to this year's presidential elections.

Over the past year, Egyptian authorities have intensified their crackdown on online media and websites critical of the government. Since May 2017, the government has blocked more than 497 websites. Most are either media outlets or the websites of human rights NGOs.

Front Line Defenders is seriously concerned about the detention of blogger and human rights defender Mohamed Ibrahim and is deeply worried about his safety and physical well being. Front Line Defenders believes that his arrest and ongoing detention is an act of retaliation against Oxygen Egypt's coverage of human rights issues and irregularities in recent Egyptian presidential elections.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Egypt to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Mohamed Ibrahim, as Front Line Defenders believes that he is being held solely as a result of his legitimate and peaceful human rights work;
2. Disclose the whereabouts of Mohamed Ibrahim and allow him immediate and unfettered access to his family and his lawyers;
3. Ensure that Mohamed Ibrahim'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 Mohamed Ibrahim;

5. Cease targeting all human rights defenders, journalists and bloggers 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.