

Solidarity calls after the arrest of activists in Egypt

Wednesday 10 May 2006, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date first published: 10 May 2006).

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50 democracy activists arrested in Egypt

April 27, 2006

Fifty democracy activists in Egypt have been arrested and detained during peaceful protests at the Judges' Club in Cairo. Police attacked and beat activists, hospitalizing Judge Mahmoud Hamza, a leading campaigner for judicial independence and reform.

Hundreds of judges joined protests on 27 April during which riot police chased demonstrators through central Cairo.

Journalists have also been beaten and harassed by the security forces, including reporters from Al Jazeera.

Among those arrested on 26 April are Kamal Khalil and Ibrahim Sahari from the Centre for Socialist Studies, Hussein Mohamed Ali of the Ghad party, Seif Abdallah of the Karamah party, Saher Gad, a journalist and sixteen others. The following day journalist Mohamed Abdel, Hamdy Kandil and Ashraf Ibrahim from the Engineers for Democracy movement, pro-democracy activists Wael Khalil, Ali Al Fil, Mohamed al Sherif, Mohamed Abdel Moneim, Aziz Ragih and Ahmed Shuaib were among those arrested.

Along with hundreds of other democracy activists, they have been mobilising support for judges who have spoken out against corruption and exposed the rigging of last year's parliamentary elections. In an attempt to terrorise the Judges' Club and intimidate the whistle-blowers, the Supreme Judicial Council has hauled pro-reform judges Hisham Bastawisi and Mahmoud Mekki in front of a disciplinary committee.

Many of the activists have now been remanded in custody for fifteen days.

Protests and solidarity are urgently needed, as it is during this period that detainees are most likely to face abuse. In 2003 Human Rights Watch condemned the "epidemic of state security violence and arbitrary detention" unleashed by the Egyptian government in response to demonstrations against the US invasion of Iraq. Ibrahim Sahari was one of many anti-war activists arrested and tortured during this period. He was also arrested in 2005 for handing out leaflets calling for constitutional change at the Cairo Book Fair.

Send messages of protest urgently to:

Counsellor Maher 'Abd al-Wahid, Public Prosecutor

Dar al-Qadha al-'Ali
Ramses Street, Cairo, Egypt
Fax: + 202 577 4716

Copy to:

H.E. Mr Gehad Refaat Madi,
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
26 South Street
London W1Y 6DD
Telephone: (020) 7499 3304/2401
Fax: (020) 7491 1542

(Outside Britain substitute appropriate Egyptian Embassy)

URGENT Solidarity call from Egyptian democrats

May 10, 2006

The Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, is now holding a European tour which covers Italy, Germany and France.

This visit is taking place while more than 188 Egyptian activists (Islamists, Socialist, Liberals, Nasserites, and independents) have been arrested the past two weeks for their support for an independent judiciary and against the extension of emergency law.

As they remain in custody under inhumane conditions with more than 37 of them on hunger strike. This is an emergency situation demanding solidarity with democracy fighters in Egypt.

We appeal to all activists of whatever affiliation to protest against Mubarak's visit to their country.

Show Your solidarity with democracy activists and demand the immediate release of our colleagues

Egyptian Political Forces and Democracy Groups