



URGENT ACTION: HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST DETAINED FOR A THIRD TIME AND CONVICTED (EGYPT) SANAA SEIF, AGE 26

TAKE ACTION:

1. Write a letter or email in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed.
2. [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on *Urgent Action 139.20*. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Public Prosecutor Hamada al-Sawi
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Madinat al-Rehab Cairo,
Arab Republic of Egypt

Ambassador Yasser Reda
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
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20008
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SAMPLE LETTER/EMAIL on next page

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- READ more details [here](#)
- Please be sure to [register your letters or emails here](#) so we can keep track.

SAMPLE LETTER/EMAIL on next page

Dear _____,

Human rights activist Sanaa Seif, 26, has been arbitrarily detained since 23 June 2020 solely stemming from her exercise of her right to freedom of expression and her peaceful activism. She is a prisoner of conscience, who should be immediately and unconditionally released.

On 23 June 2020, Ms. Sanaa Seif was abducted on June 23, 2020 by unknown persons in a minibus in front of the gate of Egypt's Public Prosecutor in New Cairo. Sanaa Seif, together with her mother Laila Souef and her sister Mona Seif had gone to lodge a complaint in person to the Public Prosecutor after they were violently assaulted the day before in front of the gates of Tora prison. Sanaa Seif was taken to the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP), where prosecutors questioned her over "disseminating false news", "inciting terrorist crimes" and "misuse of social media". Additionally, she was charged with "verbally insulting a police officer on duty" and "defaming a police officer". These charges relate to Sanaa Seif speaking out against a police officer when he pushed her mother on the day of the assault.

She has now been sentenced to 18 months of imprisonment on these charges. Please note that under international law, "insult" is not a recognizable offense and does not justify a limitation on freedom of expression. In addition, the UN Human Rights Committee has stated that "the mere fact that forms of expression are considered to be insulting to a public figure is not sufficient to justify the imposition of penalties".

Egyptian authorities must immediately release Sanaa Seif and urgently open an investigation into the violent assault on her and her family, including the complicity of security forces in the attack.

Yours sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]