

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

Groningen, 2023

Dear Counsellor,

I wish to express my concern over the arbitrary detention of human rights lawyer and co-founder of the Disappeared in Egypt, Ibrahim Metwaly. He was detained on 10 September 2017 at Cairo International Airport on his way to Geneva. He was invited to meet with the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to address the issue of enforced disappearances in Egypt. Metwaly was held incommunicado for two days during which he was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment by National Security Agency officers. In June 2022, after five years in Tora Prison Complex, Metwaly was transferred to Badr 3 prison where he remains.

Metwaly has remained in pre-trial detention since 2017. This exceeds the maximum period of two years of pre-trial detention permitted under Egyptian law. He is being investigated for charges including "founding and leading an illegal group", "conspiring with foreign parties to harm Egyptian national security", and "publishing false news".

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Ibrahim Metwaly. Pending his release, he must be protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and have access to his family and lawyers.

Yours sincerely,