

ADVOCACY DOSSIER

HAYTHAM MOHAMADEEN

هيثم محمدين

At liberty **Egypt**

Haytham Mohamadeen is a labour lawyer who spent almost four years in preventive detention on terrorism-related charges. He was detained briefly in 2013 and for six months in 2016, held from May to October 2018, then re-arrested in May 2019 and kept in detention through case rotation until his release in September 2022.

HuMENA

Prepared by HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement · 9 November 2026

Case reference HM-EG-2026-017

01

THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Haytham Mohamadeen is a labour lawyer who spent almost four years in preventive detention on terrorism-related charges. He was detained briefly in 2013 and for six months in 2016, held from May to October 2018, then re-arrested in May 2019 and kept in detention through case rotation until his release in September 2022.

STATUS	**At liberty**
ARRESTED	**13 May 2019**
COUNTRY	**Egypt**
CHARGES	**Membership of a terrorist organisation** **Aiding a terrorist organisation to achieve its goals** **Misuse of social media**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Drop any charges that remain on record against Haytham Mohamadeen in connection with peaceful human rights work.

02 Confirm publicly that Haytham Mohamadeen faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case.

03 Guarantee that Haytham Mohamadeen can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal.

04 Provide effective remedy for the period of deprivation of liberty already served.

Latest updates on this case
Scan the code or visit:
https://humena.org/defenders/haytham-mohamadeen/

02

DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
Arbitrary detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9
Enforced disappearance	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Article 2 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 9, 16
Judicial harassment	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12
Prolonged pretrial detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9(3)
Unfair trial	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14

03

HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

5 September 2013

ARREST

Arrested by the army near Suez

The army arrested him at a checkpoint near Suez while he was on his way to advise factory workers.

7 September 2013

RELEASE

Released by the Suez prosecutor

The Suez prosecutor ordered his release.

22 April 2016

ARREST

Arrested at home before Tiran and Sanafir protests

He was arrested at his home before the 25 April 2016 protests against the transfer of Tiran and Sanafir islands and held in pre-trial detention.

14 October 2016

RELEASE

Released from pre-trial detention

He was released from pre-trial detention; the charges were not dropped.

15 May 2018

ARREST

Arrested at home in Case 718/2018

Police and National Security officers arrested him at his home. On 19 May 2018 the State Security Prosecution ordered his detention in Case No. 718/2018, accusing him of aiding a terrorist group and calling for protests.

10 October 2018

START OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

Disappears from custody after release order

A court ordered his conditional release, but instead of being freed he disappeared from custody until 29 October 2018.

29 October 2018

RELEASE ORDER

Freed under precautionary measures

He was freed under precautionary measures after disappearing from custody following a 10 October 2018 release order.

19 November 2018

REPORTING OBLIGATION IMPOSED

Precautionary measures imposed

The Criminal Court of Cairo and the Supreme State Security Emergency Court imposed precautionary measures requiring him to report to his local police station twice weekly.

13 May 2019

RE-ARREST

Re-arrest and enforced disappearance

Police arrested Mohamadeen at Saf station in Giza after summoning him on allegations of violating probation. He was held incommunicado for three days.

16 May 2019

REAPPEARANCE IN CUSTODY

Reappearance before prosecution

Mohamadeen reappeared before the State Security Prosecution, charged with membership of a terrorist organisation. His detention began being renewed every fifteen days.

19 July 2019

UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES COMMUNICATION

UN experts send allegation letter on his case

UN special procedures sent an allegation letter to Egypt about his detention; a second letter followed on 2 June 2020.

25 August 2019

PRETRIAL DETENTION RENEWED

Detention renewal extended to 45 days

The State Security Prosecution renewed his detention, shifting from fifteen-day to forty-five-day renewal cycles.

27 November 2019

RELEASE ORDER

Court orders conditional release

The Criminal Court of Cairo ordered Mohamadeen's release under precautionary measures.

28 November 2019

PRETRIAL DETENTION RENEWED

Prosecution appeals release order

The Appeals Court of Cairo accepted the Public Prosecution's appeal against the release order. Mohamadeen remained in detention.

18 February 2020

PRETRIAL DETENTION RENEWED

Detention renewed

The Criminal Court of Cairo renewed his pre-trial detention for an additional forty-five days.

6 May 2020

PRETRIAL DETENTION RENEWED

Detention renewed

The Criminal Court of Cairo renewed his pre-trial detention for a further forty-five days.

8 March 2021

CONTEXT

Release order not carried out

A court ordered his release, but he was not freed.

10 March 2021

CHARGE FILED

Rotated into new Case 1956/2019

The State Security Prosecution added him to a new case, No. 1956/2019, on the same accusation, keeping him in detention.

2 December 2021

PETITION TO THE WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION

Case submitted to UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

A rights group submitted his case to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

15 September 2022

RELEASE ORDER

Released from preventive detention

The Presidential Pardons Committee announced the Public Prosecution's decision to release forty-six prisoners, including Mohamadeen, after over four years in pre-trial detention.

04

THE FULL STORY

Background and Work

Haytham Mohamadeen is a labour rights lawyer and human rights defender based in Egypt. He dedicated his practice to providing pro-bono legal representation to workers facing dismissal, wage theft, and unsafe working conditions. He was a member of El-Naddim Centre for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence, an Egyptian non-governmental organisation focused on combating torture and providing medical and legal support to victims of human rights violations.

His work placed him at the intersection of labour organising and human rights documentation in a country where independent trade union activity and criticism of state economic policy are increasingly criminalised. Lawyers who defend workers and document abuses have faced systematic targeting through Egypt's expanded state security apparatus.

Earlier Arrests and Precautionary Measures

Mohamadeen was detained by the army at a checkpoint near Suez in September 2013 and released two days later, and he was held in pre-trial detention from April to October 2016 over the Tiran and Sanafir protests. On 15 May 2018, he was arrested at his home and placed in pre-trial detention in State Security Case No. 718/2018. On 10 October 2018 a court ordered his release, but he disappeared from custody and was only freed on 29 October 2018. Then, on 19 November 2018, the Criminal Court of Cairo and the Supreme State Security Emergency Court imposed precautionary measures requiring him and nine other defendants in State Security Case No. 718/2018 to report to their local police stations twice weekly. The measures were renewed every forty-five days.

Re-Arrest and Enforced Disappearance

On 13 May 2019, Mohamadeen was summoned to Saf police station in Giza governorate. Authorities claimed he had violated the terms of his probation. When he presented himself at the station, police arrested him. He was held incommunicado, without access to his lawyer or family, for three days.

He reappeared on 16 May 2019 before the State Security Prosecution, which charged him with membership of a terrorist organisation. His detention was renewed every fifteen days. From August 2019 onward, renewals extended to forty-five days at a time. The cycle of renewal continued without trial until September 2022. In March 2021, after a new release order, prosecutors rotated him into another case, No. 1956/2019, on the same accusation.

Brief Release Order and Immediate Appeal

On 27 November 2019, the Criminal Court of Cairo ordered Mohamadeen's release under precautionary measures. One day later, on 28 November 2019, the Appeals Court of Cairo accepted an appeal filed by

the Public Prosecution. He remained in detention.

Prolonged Pre-Trial Detention

Mohamadeen's detention was renewed repeatedly throughout 2020. On 18 February 2020, the Criminal Court of Cairo extended his pre-trial detention for an additional forty-five days. On 6 May 2020, the same court renewed it again. No trial took place. The charges against him expanded to include "aiding a terrorist organisation to achieve its goals" and "misuse of social media."

Release

On 15 September 2022, the Presidential Pardons Committee announced that the Public Prosecution had decided to release forty-six prisoners held in preventive detention. Mohamadeen was among them. He had spent almost four years in pre-trial detention, across 2018 and 2019 to 2022, without being convicted of any crime. The terrorism-related charges were never adjudicated in open court.

Legal and Procedural Context

Egypt's Code of Criminal Procedure permits pre-trial detention for a maximum of two years. In practice, prosecutors routinely circumvent this limit by closing one case file and opening another with identical or expanded charges, a procedure known as "rotation" or "recycling." Defendants remain in detention across multiple case numbers without ever facing trial. The practice has been condemned by Egyptian and international human rights organisations as a form of arbitrary detention that renders legal maximums meaningless.

Mohamadeen's case exemplifies the use of terrorism charges and state security prosecution to neutralise labour organisers and legal defenders. His detention from May 2019 spanned more than three years, during which he was denied the right to a timely trial, subjected to enforced disappearance, and held under laws that grant prosecutors near-unlimited powers of renewal. His release in 2022 was administrative, not judicial; the charges were never withdrawn, and no court declared him innocent.

05

SAMPLE LETTER

Copy it, adapt it and send it from your own address.

Your Excellency,

I am writing about the case of Haytham Mohamadeen, labour rights lawyer providing pro-bono legal aid to workers; member of El-Naddim Centre for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence in Egypt, who has been released. I am writing to ask that the case be closed properly and that no further reprisal follows.

In brief: Haytham Mohamadeen is a labour lawyer who spent almost four years in preventive detention on terrorism-related charges. He was detained briefly in 2013 and for six months in 2016, held from May to October 2018, then re-arrested in May 2019 and kept in detention through case rotation until his release in September 2022.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Drop any charges that remain on record against Haytham Mohamadeen in connection with peaceful human rights work;
2. Confirm publicly that Haytham Mohamadeen faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case;
3. Guarantee that Haytham Mohamadeen can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal;
4. Provide effective remedy for the period of deprivation of liberty already served.

I will continue to follow this case until the record against Haytham Mohamadeen is cleared and no reprisal remains.

Respectfully,

[Your name]
[Your city, country]
9 November 2026