

Advocacy dossier

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din

إبراهيم عز الدين

At liberty **Egypt**

An engineer who documented forced evictions, Ibrahim Ezz El-Din was arrested in June 2019, disappeared for more than five months, then held in pre-trial detention for nearly three years before being released on a prosecution order on 26 April 2022.

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The case at a glance

An engineer who documented forced evictions, Ibrahim Ezz El-Din was arrested in June 2019, disappeared for more than five months, then held in pre-trial detention for nearly three years before being released on a prosecution order on 26 April 2022.

Status	Arrested	Country
At liberty	**11 Jun 2019**	**Egypt**

Charges
Spreading false news
Belonging to a terrorist group
Misuse of social media
Belonging to a terrorist organisation (case No. 1018 of 2020)

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Drop any charges that remain on record against Ibrahim Ezz El-Din in connection with peaceful human rights work.

02 Confirm publicly that Ibrahim Ezz El-Din faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case.

03 Guarantee that Ibrahim Ezz El-Din can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal.

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

02

Documented violations

Each violation and the international standard it breaks.

Arbitrary detention International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9

Denial of family visits UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), Rule 58

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

Prolonged pretrial detention International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9(3)

Torture Convention against Torture, Articles 1, 2
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 7

Unfair trial International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14

03

How the case unfolded

11 June 2019

Arrest

Arrested in Cairo

Security forces arrested Ibrahim Ezz El-Din in the Mokattam area of Cairo and took him to an unknown location.

3 September 2019

Hearing

Administrative Court hearing rescheduled

The Administrative Court of Cairo rescheduled the first session of the case filed by ECRF to determine his whereabouts to 16 November 2019.

26 November 2019

Reappearance in custody

Reappeared before the Supreme State Security Prosecution

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din appeared before the Supreme State Security Prosecution in Cairo, more than five months after his enforced disappearance began. He was added to case No. 488 of 2019 and ordered detained for fifteen days. He told the prosecutor he had been tortured during his disappearance to extract information about the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms.

4 December 2019

Hearing

Pre-trial detention renewed

The Supreme State Security Prosecution in Cairo renewed his preventive detention for fifteen days.

4 March 2020

Hearing

Detention renewed for fifteen days

The Supreme State Security Prosecution renewed his pre-trial detention for an additional fifteen days.

5 May 2020

Hearing

Detention extended for forty-five days

The Criminal Court of Cairo renewed his detention for forty-five days, together with that of human rights defenders Mohamed El-Baqer, Mohamed Ibrahim and Mahienour El-Masry, in a session held without the defendants or their lawyers present.

27 December 2020

Release order

Release order issued but not implemented

The Criminal Court of Cairo issued a release order for Ibrahim Ezz El-Din, but authorities did not implement it.

2 January 2021

Charge filed

Added to new case, detention extended

The Supreme State Security Prosecution linked him to case No. 1018 of 2020, charging him with belonging to a terrorist organisation, and ordered detention for fifteen days.

26 April 2022

Release

Released on a State Security Prosecution order

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din was released on 26 April 2022, without probation measures, on a Supreme State Security Prosecution release order of 23 April 2022, after 1,050 days of pre-trial detention. The charges were not dropped.

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The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: this record was checked against current sources. Ibrahim Ezz El-Din has been at liberty since 26 April 2022, released on a Supreme State Security Prosecution order of 23 April 2022 without the charges being dropped; no new arrest, hearing or restriction has been reported since. His detention was renewed on 5 May 2020 in the same court session as that of Mohamed El-Baqer, Mohamed Ibrahim (known as “Oxygen”) and Mahienour El-Masry.

Background and Work

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din trained as an architectural planning engineer. His professional expertise in urban planning led him to the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms, one of Egypt's few remaining independent human rights organisations, where he worked as a researcher documenting forced evictions and violations of the right to housing.

His work focused on communities facing demolition orders, families displaced by infrastructure projects, and informal settlements targeted for clearance without adequate notice or compensation. This documentation carried significant risks.

Arrest and Enforced Disappearance

On 11 June 2019, Egyptian security forces arrested Ibrahim Ezz El-Din in the Mokattam area of Cairo and took him to an unknown location. No arrest warrant was shown to him or his family. No notification was given of where he was being held or on what grounds.

The Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms filed a case with the Administrative Court of Cairo seeking information about his whereabouts. The first hearing was scheduled for 3 September 2019 and later rescheduled to 16 November 2019. Throughout this period, Ibrahim Ezz El-Din remained disappeared.

He reappeared on 26 November 2019, more than five months after his arrest, brought before the Supreme State Security Prosecution in Cairo. Prosecutors immediately linked him to case No. 488 of 2019, charging him with spreading false news, belonging to a terrorist group, and misuse of social media. The prosecution ordered his detention for fifteen days pending investigation. He told the prosecutor that he had been tortured during his disappearance to extract information about the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms.

Prolonged Pre-Trial Detention

Between December 2019 and April 2022, Ibrahim Ezz El-Din was held in prolonged pre-trial detention. Prosecutors renewed his detention repeatedly in cycles of fifteen and forty-five days. On 4 December 2019 the Supreme State Security Prosecution renewed his detention for fifteen days. On 4 March 2020 it renewed for another fifteen days. On 5 May 2020 the Criminal Court of Cairo renewed his detention alongside three other human rights defenders for forty-five days.

On 27 December 2020, the Criminal Court of Cairo issued an order for his release. The order was never implemented. Instead, on 2 January 2021, the Supreme State Security Prosecution added him to a new case, No. 1018 of 2020, on charges of

belonging to a terrorist organisation, and ordered his detention for an additional fifteen days. The cycle of renewals continued.

Detention Conditions

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din was held in pre-trial detention facilities in Cairo. During the initial months of his enforced disappearance, his family had no access to him and no information about his location or condition. After his formal appearance before prosecutors in November 2019, he entered the regular detention system, though family visit access remained restricted and subject to frequent denials.

Release

On 26 April 2022, Ibrahim Ezz El-Din was released on a Supreme State Security Prosecution order dated 23 April 2022. The release was unrelated to the December 2020 court order that had never been enforced. He had spent nearly three years in detention, the vast majority of it without trial, for research work on housing rights that posed no threat to public safety.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/ibrahim-ezz-el-din/

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