ADVOCACY DOSSIER

MAGDY ABDEL HAMID

مجدي عبد الحميد

At liberty **Egypt**

Chairman of EACPE, Magdy Abdel Hamid was barred from travel at Cairo airport in 2017, years before the charges against him in the foreign funding case were dropped in August 2021. Whether the asset freeze and travel ban have been lifted is unconfirmed.

HuMENA.

Prepared by HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement · 8 November 2026

Case reference HM-EG-2026-029

01

THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Chairman of EACPE, Magdy Abdel Hamid was barred from travel at Cairo airport in 2017, years before the charges against him in the foreign funding case were dropped in August 2021. Whether the asset freeze and travel ban have been lifted is unconfirmed.

STATUS	**At liberty**
COUNTRY	**Egypt**
SENTENCE	**No trial; the investigative judge dropped the Case 173 charges on 30 August 2021. Whether the travel ban and asset freeze remain in place is unconfirmed.**
CHARGES	**Receiving illegal foreign funding** **Operating without legal authorization**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Confirm publicly that no charge, restriction or proceeding remains against Magdy Abdel Hamid in connection with this case.

02 Guarantee that Magdy Abdel Hamid can continue peaceful human rights work without surveillance, summons or further reprisal.

03 Immediately lift the travel ban imposed on Magdy Abdel Hamid and on any family members affected by the same order.

04 Immediately unfreeze the personal and organisational accounts of Magdy Abdel Hamid.

Latest updates on this case
Scan the code or visit:
https://humena.org/defenders/magdy-abdel-hamid/

02

DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
Asset freeze	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 13
Criminalisation of solidarity	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 21, 22 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 5
Judicial harassment	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12
Travel ban	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12

03

HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

2011

INVESTIGATION OPENED

Case 173 opened against civil society groups

Egyptian authorities opened Case 173, the foreign funding case, targeting dozens of civil society organizations including EACPE and its chairman Magdy Abdel Hamid.

2011

ASSET FREEZE IMPOSED

Asset freeze imposed

Asset freezes were imposed on Magdy Abdel Hamid's personal and institutional accounts in connection with Case 173.

2 October 2017

TRAVEL BAN IMPOSED

Prevented from travel at Cairo airport

Magdy Abdel Hamid was barred from boarding a flight to Amman at Cairo airport at approximately 10:00 AM. He had received no prior notification of the travel ban.

30 August 2021

CASE UPDATE

Charges dropped

The investigative judge authorized by Cairo Court of Appeal dropped Case 173 against Magdy Abdel Hamid, Azza Soliman, Negad El Borei, and Hossameldin Ali, and their organizations, without a trial.

04

THE FULL STORY

Background and Work

Magdy Abdel Hamid is chairman of the Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement (EACPE), an organization dedicated to strengthening the role of Egyptian citizens in civil society, public policy, and civic spaces. EACPE has focused on building platforms for participatory governance, promoting gender equity, and expanding women's engagement in policy dialogue. The organization's mission centers on enabling Egyptians to shape the policies and institutions that govern their lives.

His work placed him at the intersection of civic development and human rights in a country where independent organizing has been systematically criminalized. EACPE's programming sought to build the connective tissue of democratic participation at a time when Egypt's government was moving to sever those ties.

The Foreign Funding Case

In 2011, Egyptian authorities opened Case 173, known widely as the foreign funding case. The investigation targeted dozens of civil society organizations and their staff, accusing them of receiving illegal foreign funding and operating without legal authorization. The case became one of the most sweeping legal assaults on Egypt's independent civil sector, ensnaring rights defenders, development organizations, and advocacy groups across the spectrum.

Magdy Abdel Hamid and EACPE were among those charged. The case brought criminal proceedings, asset freezes on both personal and institutional accounts, and travel bans that prevented defenders from leaving Egypt. For years, the prosecution hung over Magdy and his colleagues, effectively paralyzing their work and isolating them from international partners and forums.

On 30 August 2021, the investigative judge authorized by the Cairo Court of Appeal decided to drop the case against Magdy and three co-defendants: Azza Soliman, Negad El Borei, and Hossameldin Ali. The decision ended the case against all four defenders and their organizations without a trial. Whether the ruling led to the removal of their names from travel ban lists or the lifting of the asset freezes has not been confirmed.

Travel Ban at Cairo Airport

On 2 October 2017, years before the charges were dropped, Magdy Abdel Hamid attempted to board a flight from Cairo to Amman to attend the Policy Forum on Development, organized under the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. At approximately 10:00 AM, passport control officials at Cairo airport prevented him from traveling. He had received no prior notification of a travel ban.

The incident exemplified a pattern in which Egyptian authorities impose restrictive measures on human

rights defenders without prior notice. Travel bans, asset freezes, and other administrative sanctions continue to operate independently of judicial outcomes, effectively punishing defenders outside the framework of criminal law.

Broader Context

Magdy Abdel Hamid's case is part of a sustained campaign of legal harassment targeting Egypt's civil society. Over the three years following the opening of Case 173, dozens of organizations faced criminal charges. Several defenders associated with the case were subjected to travel bans, including Azza Soliman, Mohamed Zaree, Mozn Hassan, Hossameldin Ali, Ahmed Ghonim, Bassim Samir, Esraa Abdel Fattah, Hoda Abdelwahab, Nasser Amin, and Ahmed Ragheb.

The foreign funding case functioned as a legal mechanism to immobilize Egypt's independent human rights sector, cutting off organizations from foreign support, restricting their leaders' movement, and freezing the resources needed to operate. Even when courts dropped charges, administrative restrictions remained, leaving defenders in a state of permanent legal limbo.

05

SAMPLE LETTER

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

Your Excellency,

I am writing about the case of Magdy Abdel Hamid, chairman of the Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement; civil society development advocate; gender and policy participation specialist in Egypt, whose prosecution has ended. I am writing to ask that the case be closed properly and that no further reprisal follows.

In brief: Chairman of EACPE, Magdy Abdel Hamid was barred from travel at Cairo airport in 2017, years before the charges against him in the foreign funding case were dropped in August 2021. Whether the asset freeze and travel ban have been lifted is unconfirmed.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Confirm publicly that no charge, restriction or proceeding remains against Magdy Abdel Hamid in connection with this case;
2. Guarantee that Magdy Abdel Hamid can continue peaceful human rights work without surveillance, summons or further reprisal;
3. Immediately lift the travel ban imposed on Magdy Abdel Hamid and on any family members affected by the same order;
4. Immediately unfreeze the personal and organisational accounts of Magdy Abdel Hamid.

I will continue to follow this case until no reprisal remains.

Respectfully,

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