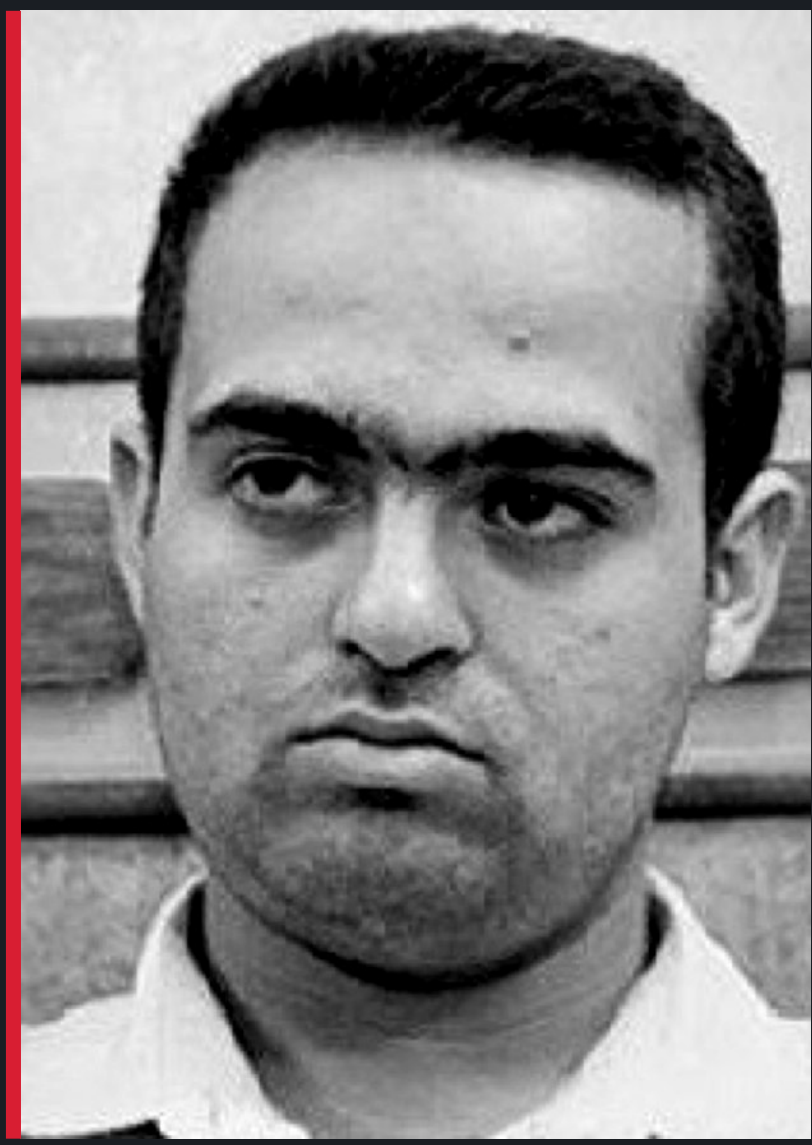

Advocacy dossier

Mohamed Adel

محمد عادل

Imprisoned (serving sentence) **Egypt**

Mohamed Adel, former spokesperson for the April 6 Youth Movement, has been detained since June 2018. Authorities have denied him surgery for a severe knee injury, subjected him to assault by fellow inmates, and blocked him from sitting university exams.

01
The case at a glance

Mohamed Adel, former spokesperson for the April 6 Youth Movement, has been detained since June 2018. Authorities have denied him surgery for a severe knee injury, subjected him to assault by fellow inmates, and blocked him from sitting university exams.

Status **Imprisoned (serving sentence)**	Arrested **19 Jun 2018**	Country **Egypt**

Sentence Four years in prison. Authorities calculated the sentence from the date of the verdict in September 2023 without deducting the two years and seven months he had already spent in pretrial detention. Expected release: September 2027.

Charges Joining an unlawful group
Spreading false news
Violations under the 2013 protest law (Law No. 107 of 2013)

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Release Mohamed Adel immediately and unconditionally.

02 Drop all charges related to the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights.

03 Ensure unrestricted access to legal counsel, family, and adequate medical care while in detention.

04 Provide Mohamed Adel with immediate, independent medical evaluation and the full treatment that condition requires, including transfer to an independent civilian hospital if necessary.

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

Denial of medical care UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), Rules 24 to 27

Inhumane detention conditions International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 10
UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules)

Judicial harassment UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12

Physical assault International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 7, 9

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

Threats and intimidation UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12

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

19 December 2013

Arrest

First arrested over a peaceful protest

Arrested with other activists over protests and charged under the 2013 protest law.

2014

Conviction

Sentenced to three years in prison under the protest law

A court sentenced him to three years in prison, followed by three years of police probation, and a fine of EGP 50,000.

January 2017

Reporting obligation imposed

Placed on nightly police probation for three years

He was required to spend every night, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., at a police station, for three years.

January 2017

Release

Released after serving his sentence

He was released after serving three years in prison.

19 June 2018

Charge filed

Charged on the same allegations in a new case

He was charged with joining an unlawful group and spreading false news.

19 June 2018

Arrest

Arrested while reporting to the police station as required

Arrested at Aga police station while complying with the nightly reporting obligation imposed after his earlier sentence.

2020

Case rotation (tadwir)

Charged in a third case, No. 467 of 2020

In 2020, he was charged in a third case (No. 467 of 2020).

27 January 2021

Release order

Bail order not carried out

A court ordered his release on bail, but the security forces did not implement the decision and he remained in detention.

30 May 2022

Medical care denied

Denied medical care since 30 May 2022

Since 30 May 2022, the Egyptian authorities have been denying Mohamed Adel access to medical care for his various health conditions

2023

Referral to trial

Referred to trial in 2023 after years in pretrial detention

Mohamed Adel spent years in prolonged pretrial detention before being referred to trial in 2023.

2 September 2023

Conviction

Four-year sentence upheld on appeal

The Aga misdemeanour appeals court upheld a four-year prison sentence. The authorities calculated the term from the date of the verdict without deducting the two years and seven months already spent in pretrial detention, putting expected release in September 2027.

March 2024

Threat

Threatened with solitary confinement or transfer

In March 2024, National Security Agency (NSA) officials threatened to place Mohamed Adel in solitary confinement or transfer him to a different prison with notoriously cruel detention conditions

May 2024

Medical emergency

Admitted to prison hospital as health deteriorates

In May and July 2024, Adel was admitted to the prison hospital because of his deteriorating health.

July 2024

Medical emergency

Admitted to prison hospital as health deteriorates

In May and July 2024, Adel was admitted to the prison hospital because of his deteriorating health.

August 2024

Medical care denied

First full medical examination since 2018 confirms urgent surgery is needed

Doctors at Mansoura General Hospital confirmed he urgently needed knee replacement surgery. The procedure was refused. He has a torn shoulder muscle, atrophy, a severe knee ligament rupture, fluid buildup and chest pain.

18 August 2024

Hunger strike begins

Began a full hunger strike

After refusing prison meals from late July 2024 at Gamasa prison, he began a full hunger strike on 18 August 2024.

31 December 2024

Transfer between places of detention

Transferred to 10th of Ramadan Prison

After he was barred from sitting his university examinations in December 2024, he was transferred from Gamasa Prison to the 10th of Ramadan Correctional and Rehabilitation Center. His wife was then barred from visiting him.

7 December 2025

Hunger strike begins

Began a hunger strike

He began a hunger strike in protest at his arbitrary detention since June 2018.

10 January 2026

Physical assault

Assaulted by other detainees in the intake ward

Other prisoners in the intake ward of 10th of Ramadan Prison 4 beat him and tried to strangle him while guards did not intervene. His wife said the assault lasted three hours. The Interior Ministry denied it.

20 January 2026

Context

Activist arrested for posting in his support

Activist Ahmed Douma was arrested and questioned over posts in support of Mohamed Adel, then released on bail of EGP 100,000.

1 February 2026

Hunger strike ends

Ended his hunger strike

He ended the hunger strike he had begun on 7 December 2025. His wife learned of it during her visit on 15 February 2026.

19 June 2026

Context

Eight years in detention

He completed eight years in detention, counted from his arrest at Aga police station in June 2018.

6 July 2026

Context

Says he intends a new open-ended hunger strike

During a family visit on 6 July 2026 he said he intended to start a new open-ended hunger strike. Amnesty International reported that his physical and psychological health had severely deteriorated and that he had not been allowed to see specialist doctors. It is not confirmed that the strike began.

04

The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: this record was checked on 12 November 2026. Mohamed Adel remains in 10th of Ramadan prison, where he passed eight years in detention in June 2026; his expected release date is September 2027. In July 2026 Amnesty International reported that his physical and psychological health had severely deteriorated and that he had told his family he intended a new open-ended hunger strike. Activist Ahmed Douma was arrested in January 2026 after posting in support of him.

Background and Work

Mohamed Adel served as a leading member and former spokesperson of the April 6 Youth Movement, a pro-democracy group that emerged during Egypt's 2008 labor mobilizations and played a prominent role in the 2011 uprising. For more than a decade, he has been systematically targeted by Egyptian authorities for his participation in peaceful political activism and public dissent.

First Arrest and Probation

On 19 December 2013, Mohamed Adel was arrested alongside other activists for participating in protests. He was charged under Law No. 107 of 2013, a restrictive statute widely criticized for criminalizing peaceful assembly. A court sentenced him to three years in prison, followed by three years of daily police probation, and fined him 50,000 Egyptian pounds.

After his release in January 2017, he was subjected to harsh probation conditions requiring him to report to a police station every day from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., effectively spending every night in custody. These restrictions severely curtailed his ability to work, study, or live a normal life.

Re-arrest and Prolonged Pretrial Detention

On 19 June 2018, while complying with these probation measures at Aga Police Station in Dakahlia governorate, Mohamed Adel was arrested again. He was charged with joining an unlawful group and spreading false news, accusations frequently deployed to criminalize peaceful expression.

In 2020, he was questioned by the Supreme State Security Prosecution in a new case based on similar allegations. Although a court ordered his release on bail on 27 January 2021, security forces did not implement the decision. Instead, authorities employed the abusive practice of "rotation," whereby detainees are added to new cases on nearly identical charges to circumvent the two-year legal limit on pretrial detention.

Mohamed Adel spent years in prolonged pretrial detention before being referred to trial in 2023. In September 2023, the Aga Appeals Court of Misdemeanors upheld a four-year prison sentence. Although he had already spent two years and seven months in pretrial detention on the same case, authorities calculated his sentence from the date of the verdict without deducting the time already served. This failure to credit time served violates Egyptian law and due process guarantees. He is currently expected to complete his sentence in September 2027.

Detention Conditions and Medical Neglect

Mohamed Adel is currently held at the 10th of Ramadan Correctional and Rehabilitation Center (Prison 4) in Sharqia Governorate. Since 2018, he has been transferred between several facilities in Dakahlia governorate, including Mansoura Prison and Gamasa Maximum Security Prison.

His health has deteriorated significantly during his detention. He suffers from a torn shoulder muscle with atrophy, a severe knee ligament rupture requiring joint replacement surgery, fluid accumulation, ongoing chest pain, and unexplained nail discoloration and breakage. Despite these serious conditions, he has been denied adequate medical care. Since 2018, he has been examined outside prison only once, in August 2024 at Mansoura General Hospital. Doctors confirmed that he urgently needed knee replacement surgery. The procedure was refused.

Family visits are restricted to once per month. Authorities have threatened to deny him visits and exercise time, describing exercise as a "privilege."

Retaliation, Assault, and Failure to Protect

In December 2024, prison authorities barred Mohamed Adel from sitting his university examinations for the 2024 to 2025 academic year. On 31 December 2024 they transferred him from Gamasa Prison to the 10th of Ramadan Correctional and Rehabilitation Center, and his wife was then barred from visiting him. The timing and nature of these measures indicate retaliation. On 7 December 2025 he began a hunger strike in protest at his detention, which he ended on 1 February 2026.

Following his transfer, he was forcibly placed in the reception ward, a section designated for newly admitted detainees and not equipped to accommodate him. While he was held there, on 10 January 2026, other detainees beat him and tried to strangle him; his wife said the assault lasted three hours. He reported that security personnel observed the assault without intervening. Bruises and strangulation marks remained visible on his body afterward.

The Interior Ministry denied that the assault took place. The failure to protect him places his life and physical integrity at serious risk.

His health deteriorated further during the hunger strike, and he reportedly lost substantial weight. In July 2026 he told his family he intended to start a new open-ended hunger strike.

Legal Violations

Mohamed Adel's case reflects multiple serious violations of Egyptian law and international human rights standards. These include arbitrary detention through the misuse of vague charges to criminalize peaceful expression; prolonged pretrial detention via abusive case rotation; failure to implement a judicial release order; failure to credit time served in pretrial detention toward his sentence; retaliation for exercising his rights to education and peaceful protest; exposure to assault and death threats coupled with the failure of prison authorities to protect him; denial of adequate medical care in violation of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules); and violations of fair trial and due process guarantees.

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

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