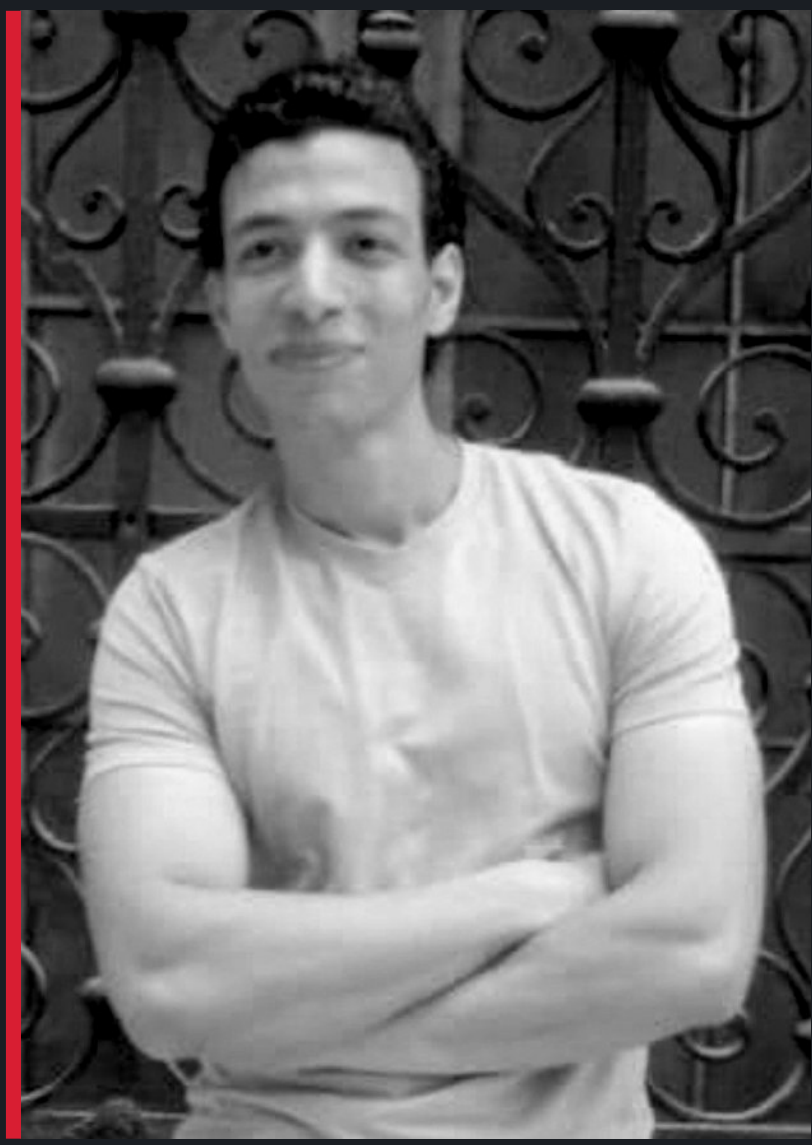


Advocacy dossier

Mohamed Ibrahim (known as “Oxygen”)

محمد إبراهيم (المعروف بـ«أكسجين»)

At liberty **Egypt**

Mohamed Ibrahim, known as "Oxygen," is a blogger who chronicled election irregularities and protest arrests in Egypt. He was disappeared for 18 days in 2019, denied visits with his mother until her death, and was charged again in another case when his sentence ended in January 2026, staying in prison until his release in March 2026.

01

The case at a glance

Mohamed Ibrahim, known as "Oxygen," is a blogger who chronicled election irregularities and protest arrests in Egypt. He was disappeared for 18 days in 2019, denied visits with his mother until her death, and was charged again in another case when his sentence ended in January 2026, staying in prison until his release in March 2026.

Status **At liberty**	Arrested **21 Sep 2019**	Country **Egypt**
Sentence Four years' imprisonment.		
Charges Spreading false news Joining a terrorist group Membership in a terrorist organization (rotation charges, 2020)		

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Drop any charges that remain on record against Mohamed Ibrahim (known as “Oxygen”) in connection with peaceful human rights work.

02 Confirm publicly that Mohamed Ibrahim (known as “Oxygen”) faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case.

03 Guarantee that Mohamed Ibrahim (known as “Oxygen”) 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

Denial of legal counsel International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14(3)

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

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

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

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

6 April 2018

Arrest

First arrest after election reporting

Ibrahim was arrested after publishing information about irregularities in Egypt's presidential elections.

31 July 2019

Conditional release

Released under precautionary measures

Mohamed Ibrahim was released from Tora Prison under precautionary measures requiring him to report to a police station twice a week and banning him from blogging.

21 September 2019

Re-arrest

Arrested while complying with reporting

Ibrahim was detained at El-Basateen Police Station in Cairo while fulfilling his reporting obligations under his precautionary measures, one day after tweeting names of detained protesters and journalists.

21 September 2019

Start of enforced disappearance

Arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared

he was arbitrarily arrested and forcibly disappeared on 21 September 2019

October 2019

Transfer between places of detention

Transferred to Tora Maximum Security Prison

Ibrahim was transferred to Tora Maximum Security Prison, where he was held under harsh conditions and denied family visits.

8 October 2019

Reappearance in custody

Brought before prosecution after 18 days

Ibrahim reappeared before the Supreme State Security Prosecution after 18 days of enforced disappearance. He was charged with spreading false news and joining a terrorist group.

8 October 2019

Hearing

First court appearance; lawyer barred

During his first criminal court appearance, authorities prevented his lawyer from attending the hearing.

8 October 2019

Charge filed

Charged in Criminal Case 1356/2019

He was charged under Criminal Case 1356/2019

20 October 2019

Hearing

Detention renewed for 15 days

The Supreme Public Prosecution renewed Ibrahim's preventive detention for an additional fifteen days.

18 November 2019

Hearing

Detention renewed for 15 days

The Supreme Public Prosecution renewed Ibrahim's preventive detention for a further fifteen days.

5 May 2020

Hearing

Detention renewed for 45 days

The Criminal Court of Cairo renewed the detention of Ibrahim, Mohamed El-Baqer, Ibrahim Ezz El-Din, and Mahienour El-Masry for an additional forty-five days.

24 August 2020

Transfer between places of detention

Transferred to Al-Aqrab Prison

Ibrahim's family was informed that he had been transferred from Tora Prison to Al-Aqrab, a maximum-security facility notorious for inhumane conditions.

27 October 2020

Hearing

Detention renewed for 45 days

The Public Prosecution renewed Ibrahim's detention for an additional forty-five days.

3 November 2020

Release order

Court orders release

A terrorism court ordered Ibrahim's release along with hundreds of other pretrial detainees.

10 November 2020

Charge filed

New charges filed before release executed

Prosecutors filed new charges of membership in a terrorist organization, a practice known as 'rotation,' ensuring Ibrahim's continued detention.

2021

Referral to trial

Referred to trial in Case 1228 of 2021

Mohamed Ibrahim, lawyer Mohamed El-Baqer and activist Alaa Abdel Fattah were referred to trial in Case No. 1228 of 2021 before the Emergency State Security Misdemeanours Court.

August 2021

Detention conditions and health

Harsh detention conditions seriously harmed his health

Harsh and inhumane detention conditions seriously harmed his health.

18 October 2021

Hearing

First hearing before emergency State Security court

The first hearing in the case was held on 18 October 2021 before the Emergency State Security Misdemeanours Court.

December 2021

Transfer between places of detention

Transferred to Badr Prison

Ibrahim was moved to Badr Prison, where conditions improved somewhat and his physical health began to recover.

20 December 2021

Conviction

Sentenced to four years by emergency court

The New Cairo Emergency State Security Misdemeanour Court sentenced Ibrahim to four years in prison alongside Mohamed El-Baqer.

February 2022

Family visit denied

Mother dies; contact still denied

Ibrahim's mother died while he remained banned from family visits. He was not permitted to see her before her death.

December 2022

Family visit denied

Family visits finally allowed after 3 years

More than three years after his arrest, authorities permitted Ibrahim to receive family visits for the first time.

April 2023

Solitary confinement imposed

Placed in solitary confinement after protecting an elderly detainee

In April 2023, guards beat him after he intervened to protect an elderly detainee from assault and placed him in solitary confinement. He was held in solitary confinement at Badr prison from July 2023.

December 2023

Context

Awarded the RSF Courage Prize in absentia

Reporters Without Borders awarded him its 2023 Courage Prize while he was in prison.

13 April 2024

Hunger strike begins

Begins hunger strike

Ibrahim began a hunger strike to protest his continued detention, alleged mistreatment, and prison conditions.

2 May 2024

Hunger strike ends

Ends hunger strike

Ibrahim ended his hunger strike on 2 May 2024.

3 January 2026

Charge filed

Charged again in a 2020 case as his sentence ends

On the day his sentence ended as counted by the authorities, he was charged again in a 2020 case on the same accusations and kept in detention.

18 March 2026

Pardon

Named in the Eid pardon

His name was included in the Prosecutor General's list of detainees pardoned for Eid. The emergency-court sentence could not be appealed.

20 March 2026

Release

Released after six and a half years in detention

Mohamed Ibrahim was transferred from Badr prison to 15 May prison in Cairo and released there on the afternoon of 20 March 2026, after six and a half years in detention.

04

The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: This record was checked against current sources. Mohamed Ibrahim, known as Oxygen, has been free since 20 March 2026, when he was released from 15 May prison after his name was included in the Eid pardon list of 18 March 2026; the 2020 case in which he was charged again on 3 January 2026 is reported to remain open. His co-defendants in Case No. 1228 of 2021, Alaa Abdel Fattah and Mohamed El-Baqer, were pardoned earlier, in September 2025 and July 2023.

Background and Work

Mohamed Ibrahim, who used the online pseudonym "Oxygen," worked as a blogger and journalist documenting political events, election processes, and human rights violations in Egypt. In April 2018, he published information about irregularities in the country's presidential elections. His reporting drew the attention of security services.

On 6 April 2018, authorities arrested him. He was released on 31 July 2019 under restrictive conditions that required him to report to El-Basateen Police Station in Cairo twice each week for questioning and prohibited him from continuing his blogging activities. These measures effectively curtailed his ability to work and placed him under ongoing surveillance.

Arrest and Enforced Disappearance

On 21 September 2019, Ibrahim went to the police station to comply with his reporting obligations. Officers detained him immediately. The arrest came one day after he posted a tweet naming demonstrators and journalists detained amid protests over allegations of military corruption and demands for the president's resignation. Blogger and activist Alaa Abd el-Fattah was arrested during the same crackdown.

Ibrahim was subjected to enforced disappearance for 18 days. His whereabouts remained unknown until 8 October 2019, when he was brought before the Supreme State Security Prosecution. Authorities charged him with spreading false news and joining a terrorist group. During his first court appearance that day, guards barred his lawyer from entering the courtroom, denying him legal representation at a critical stage of the proceedings.

On 3 November 2020, a terrorism court ordered his release along with hundreds of other pretrial detainees. Before the release order could be executed, however, prosecutors brought new charges against him on 10 November 2020, again accusing him of membership in a terrorist organization. This practice, known locally as "rotation", reset his pretrial detention and ensured his continued imprisonment.

Trial and Continued Detention Beyond Sentence

The Emergency State Security Misdemeanour Court sentenced Ibrahim to four years' imprisonment in Case No. 1228 of 2021, which was linked to Supreme State Security Case No. 1356 of 2019. The charges stemmed from his peaceful expression of views online and his documentation of protests.

He was detained for more than six years after his September 2019 arrest. When his four-year

sentence, as counted by the authorities, ended on 3 January 2026, prosecutors charged him again in a 2020 case on the same accusations and kept him in detention. He was the last remaining detainee in Case No. 1228 of 2021. Human rights lawyer Mohamed El-Baqir was pardoned in July 2023 and activist Alaa Abd el-Fattah was pardoned in September 2025, but Ibrahim remained imprisoned until his release in March 2026.

Detention Conditions, Family Denial, and Reprisals

Following his arrest, Ibrahim was transferred to Tora Maximum Security Prison, where he was held for more than a year under harsh conditions. Authorities banned family visits for approximately two years. He was denied all contact with his mother from the time of his arrest until her death in February 2022. He was not permitted to see her before she died, nor to attend her funeral.

In December 2021, he was moved to Badr Prison. Conditions there were less severe, and his physical health improved somewhat. In December 2022, more than three years after his arrest, authorities finally allowed him to receive family visits.

In April 2023, Ibrahim, along with Mohamed El-Baqir and writer Ahmed Douma, attempted to defend an elderly detainee who was being assaulted by a guard. Prison authorities responded by beating the three men and placing them in solitary confinement. Ibrahim has spent extended periods in isolation as punishment for opposing mistreatment of other prisoners.

Health and Hunger Strike

Ibrahim's health suffered seriously after his rearrest in 2019, showing the severe toll of his prolonged detention, enforced disappearance, denial of family contact, and conditions of confinement.

Between 13 April and 2 May 2024, he conducted a hunger strike to protest his continued imprisonment, alleged mistreatment, and prison conditions. Reports indicate that he has been subjected to both physical and psychological ill-treatment during his years in detention. His body was covered with pustules and insect bites.

Legal Violations and International Standards

Ibrahim's case involves multiple violations of international human rights law. His arrest was arbitrary. His enforced disappearance violated the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The denial of access to his lawyer at his first court hearing contravened Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees the right to a fair trial and legal counsel.

The practice of "rotation", filing new charges to circumvent release orders, constitutes a form of judicial harassment that undermines legal certainty and the right to liberty under Article 9 of the ICCPR. His continued detention after the completion of his sentence violates Egyptian law and international standards, amounting to arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

The conditions at Tora Maximum Security Prison, the prolonged denial of family visits, the denial of contact with his dying mother, the use of solitary confinement as punishment, and the reported physical and psychological ill-treatment all breach the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and constitute inhumane treatment.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit:https://humena.org/defenders/mohamed-ibrahim-known-as-oxygen/

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