HuMENA.

HM-EG-2026-053



Advocacy dossier

Mostafa Fouad

مصطفى فؤاد

At liberty **Egypt**

Egyptian human rights lawyer living in exile since 2017. After co-founding HuMENA and launching a campaign to expose officials implicated in abuses, Egyptian authorities raided his family home repeatedly and interrogated his parents and threatened his brother.

01

The case at a glance

Egyptian human rights lawyer living in exile since 2017. After co-founding HuMENA and launching a campaign to expose officials implicated in abuses, Egyptian authorities raided his family home repeatedly and interrogated his parents and threatened his brother.

Status	Country
At liberty	**Egypt**

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Confirm publicly that no charge, restriction or proceeding remains against Mostafa Fouad in connection with this case.

02 Guarantee that Mostafa Fouad can continue peaceful human rights work without surveillance, summons or further reprisal.

03 Immediately end all harassment, summons, surveillance, and threats against the family of Mostafa Fouad in Egypt.

04 Immediately end all transnational targeting of Mostafa Fouad, including surveillance, defamation campaigns, Interpol misuse, and consular harassment.

02

Documented violations

Each violation and the international standard it breaks.

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

Defamation and smear campaign International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 17
UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12

Reprisal against relatives UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12

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

Transnational repression UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12

Unlawful surveillance International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 17

03

How the case unfolded

2014

Threats and intimidation

Threats begin after a television interview

The threats against Fouad began in 2014, after he said publicly in a television interview that Egyptians should not vote for Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

December 2017

Departure into exile

Leaves Egypt into exile

Fouad left Egypt as the space for independent civil society closed under the 2017 associations law. He has lived in exile since December 2017.

17 March 2018

Home raid

First raid on the family home, without a warrant

Authorities raided the family home in Cairo without a warrant.

2019

Defender activity

The Unmask Them campaign is launched

HuMENA launched the Unmask Them campaign, naming Egyptian officials implicated in grave violations and calling for the repeal of Law 70 of 2017.

3 April 2019

Home raid

The family home is raided again

National Security forces entered the family home and broke into the room that had been his.

3 April 2019

Device seized or searched

His laptop, books and papers are seized

The officers took his old laptop, his books, his papers and his notebooks.

April 2020

Threats and intimidation

His parents are told the family will be pursued unless he stops

The questioning ended with a direct threat to his parents: unless Fouad stopped his human rights work, he would continue to be targeted and his brother would be pursued.

26 April 2020

Home raid

National Security forces enter the family home in Cairo

On 26 April 2020 a National Security unit forced its way into the family home in Cairo.

26 April 2020

Reprisal against relatives

His mother is summoned for questioning

The same unit summoned his mother for interrogation.

27 April 2020

Reprisal against relatives

His parents are questioned at National Security headquarters

His parents complied with the summons and were questioned at National Security headquarters in Cairo.

29 April 2020

Reprisal against relatives

His parents are ordered to come back

His parents were ordered to return for further questioning within two days.

1 May 2020

Reprisal against relatives

His parents are questioned about his work and its funding

His parents returned and were questioned in detail about his human rights work, its funding and his contacts with other defenders. A money transfer agent was arrested on accusations of financing terrorism.

20 May 2020

Threats and intimidation

His brother is threatened with arrest

His brother received a telephone call from a man who said he was from National Security, demanding information about Mostafa and threatening to arrest him.

30 June 2020

Call by others

Twenty-seven organisations call for the harassment to end

Twenty-seven international and regional organisations called on the Egyptian authorities to end the harassment of his family and to stop reaching across borders to punish a defender in exile.

04

The full story

Background and Work

Mostafa Fouad is an Egyptian lawyer with more than a decade of experience in human rights defence and civil society mobilisation across the Middle East and North Africa. He co-founded HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement and has served as its Executive Director. His work focuses on diaspora organising, documentation of abuses by Egyptian state and security institutions, LGBTQ rights advocacy, and transitional justice.

Fouad left Egypt in December 2017 as the space for independent civil society collapsed under Law 70 of 2017, which subjects non-governmental organisations to sweeping security oversight, asset freezes, and criminal penalties for receiving foreign funding or engaging in work the state deems political. He was also summoned in Case 173 of 2011, the foreign funding investigation into Egyptian civil society organisations. He continued his advocacy from exile.

The Unmask Them Campaign and the Start of Reprisals

In January 2019 HuMENA launched the Unmask Them campaign, publicly identifying Egyptian officials implicated in torture, enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killing, and other grave human rights violations. The campaign called for accountability and for repeal of the 2017 NGO law. Within two months Egyptian authorities began a pattern of reprisals against Fouad's family in Cairo.

On 17 March 2018, prior to the campaign's launch but after Fouad's departure, authorities raided the family home without a warrant. On 3 April 2019, following the campaign, National Security forces entered the home again, broke into Fouad's former bedroom, and seized his laptop, books, papers, and notebooks.

Interrogation of Family Members

On 26 April 2020 a National Security unit forced entry into his parents' home in Cairo and summoned his mother for interrogation at National Security headquarters. His parents complied with the summons on 27 April 2020 and were interrogated. On 29 April 2020 they were ordered to return within two days.

In early May 2020 they returned and were questioned in detail about Fouad's human rights activities, his funding sources, and his connections to other named Egyptian defenders. During the same period a money transfer agent who had facilitated family remittances was arrested on accusations of terrorism financing.

Threats Against His Brother

On 20 May 2020 Fouad's brother received a phone call from someone identifying himself as National Security. The caller demanded that he provide detailed information about Mostafa's work and threatened that if he did not cooperate he would be arrested and prosecuted.

International Response

On 30 June 2020 twenty-seven international and regional human rights organisations, including the Egyptian Front for Human Rights, EuroMed Rights, the Gulf Centre for Human Rights, Freedom House, CIVICUS, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, the

International Service for Human Rights, the Maharat Foundation, MADA, The Freedom Initiative, Project on Middle East Democracy, and the Committee for Justice, issued a joint statement calling on Egyptian authorities to end harassment of Fouad's family and to cease using transnational repression to silence Egyptian civil society in exile.

Fouad remains outside Egypt. His family continues to live under the threat of further reprisals.

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

HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement is a non-governmental organisation documenting the situation of human rights defenders in the Middle East and North Africa. This file is based on the public record of the case in the defenders archive.Status as recorded on 2017-12. To report an error: archive@humena.org