

ADVOCACY DOSSIER

RAMY KAMEL

رامي كامل

At liberty **Egypt**

Egyptian Coptic Christian human rights defender released in January 2022 after more than two years of pre-trial detention. Charges in Case 1475/2019 have never been formally dropped.

HuMENA.

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

Case reference HM-EG-2026-027

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THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Egyptian Coptic Christian human rights defender released in January 2022 after more than two years of pre-trial detention. Charges in Case 1475/2019 have never been formally dropped.

STATUS	**At liberty**
ARRESTED	**23 Nov 2019**
COUNTRY	**Egypt**
SENTENCE	**No verdict. Released without trial on 8 January 2022 after more than two years of pre-trial detention.**
CHARGES	**Joining and financing a terrorist group; broadcasting false news (Anti-Terrorism Law 94/2015 arts. 12, 13; Penal Code art. 102 bis). Held under State Security Case 1475/2019.**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Drop any charges that remain on record against Ramy Kamel in connection with peaceful human rights work.

02 Confirm publicly that Ramy Kamel faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case.

03 Guarantee that Ramy Kamel can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal.

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

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

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DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

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

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HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

4 November 2019

ARREST

Arrested and questioned for the first time

He was arrested and questioned. UN experts later said he was allegedly tortured on this occasion. The arrest came as he prepared to speak at the UN Forum on Minority Issues.

23 November 2019

ARREST

Arrested in night raid days before scheduled UN testimony

Security forces took him from his Shubra home shortly before he was to travel to Geneva to address the UN Forum on Minority Issues on Coptic rights.

26 November 2019

CHARGE FILED

Charged under Case 1475/2019

He was formally accused of joining a terrorist group and broadcasting false news, and remanded to Tora maximum-security prison.

11 December 2019

STATEMENT BY UN EXPERTS

UN experts urge Egypt to free him

UN human rights experts urged Egypt to end his arbitrary detention and ill-treatment. They said he was allegedly beaten to make him reveal the passwords of his devices and was deprived of his asthma and blood pressure medication.

15 April 2020

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Severe asthma attacks reported in solitary confinement

His lawyers reported multiple acute asthma episodes in a poorly ventilated isolation cell, with prison authorities providing inadequate medical attention.

24 August 2020

STATEMENT BY UN EXPERTS

UN experts name him among defenders at grave COVID-19 risk

UN experts named him among imprisoned human rights defenders in Egypt at grave risk from COVID-19 and called for their release.

July 2021

STATEMENT BY UN EXPERTS

UN Special Rapporteur calls for his release

The UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders named him among defenders held on spurious charges in Egypt and called for his release.

November 2021

CONTEXT

EIPR says his detention exceeds the legal limit

Two years after his remand, the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights said his pre-trial detention had passed the legal maximum and called for his release.

8 January 2022

CONDITIONAL RELEASE

Released after 26 months without verdict or acquittal

He was freed from Tora prison under precautionary measures. There was no judicial decision; the case file was simply left open.

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THE FULL STORY

Background and work

Ramy Kamel is a documentary photographer, researcher and one of the most consistent Egyptian voices on the rights of the Coptic Christian minority. Through the Maspero Youth Union and later as an independent researcher, he chronicled sectarian attacks on Coptic villages in Upper Egypt, church burnings, mob violence, forced displacement, and brought those cases before the United Nations. In November 2019 he was invited to address the UN Forum on Minority Issues in Geneva.

Arrest and detention

On 4 November 2019 he was arrested and questioned, and UN experts later said he was allegedly tortured. Before he could travel, on the night of 23 November 2019, security forces raided his home in the Shubra district of Cairo. He was held for several days at an undisclosed location, then transferred to Tora maximum-security prison and added to State Security Case 1475/2019. He was charged with joining and financing a terrorist group and broadcasting false information, accusations he and his lawyers have always insisted were a direct reprisal for his planned UN testimony and his work documenting violence against Copts.

Release

He spent the next two years and two months in pre-trial detention, much of it in solitary confinement. He suffered repeated asthma attacks that went largely untreated. On 8 January 2022 he was released without explanation. There was no verdict, no acquittal and no formal dismissal of charges, only an executive decision to set him free under precautionary measures. His name was not removed from the case file and the prosecution's underlying allegations remained on the record.

Since his release

There has been no public information about his situation since his release in January 2022. The 2019 case was not publicly closed.

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SAMPLE LETTER

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

Your Excellency,

I am writing about the case of Ramy Kamel, coptic minority rights defender and documentarian in Egypt, who has been released. I am writing to ask that the case be closed properly and that no further reprisal follows.

In brief: Egyptian Coptic Christian human rights defender released in January 2022 after more than two years of pre-trial detention. Charges in Case 1475/2019 have never been formally dropped.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Drop any charges that remain on record against Ramy Kamel in connection with peaceful human rights work;
2. Confirm publicly that Ramy Kamel faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case;
3. Guarantee that Ramy Kamel can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal;
4. Provide effective remedy for the period of deprivation of liberty already served.

I will continue to follow this case until the record against Ramy Kamel is cleared and no reprisal remains.

Respectfully,

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