

URGENT ACTION

UNJUSTLY JAILED STUDENT RISKS LIFE IN PRISON

Egyptian student Oqba Hashad has endured nearly seven years in arbitrary detention as punishment for his brother's human rights activism. In April 2025, the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) referred him to trial on bogus terrorism-related charges. If convicted, he could be imprisoned for the rest of his life. In November 2025 after years of sustained supporter mobilization, Egyptian authorities finally allowed him to receive a replacement for his broken prosthetic leg after denying him one for over three years. Egyptian authorities should release him immediately and unconditionally as his detention is solely linked to his brother's human rights activism.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Public Prosecutor Mohamed Shawky Ayyad
Office of the Public Prosecutor, Cairo, Egypt
Fax: +202 2577 4716; Twitter/X: @EgyptianPPO

Dear Counsellor,

I write to express my grave concern over the ongoing arbitrarily detention of 29-year-old Egyptian student Oqba Hashad, held in 10th of Ramadan prison. Oqba Hashad has been in arbitrary and unlawful pretrial detention since security forces arrested him nearly seven years ago on 20 May 2019. His pretrial detention greatly exceeds the two-year limit stipulated by Egyptian law. On 20 February 2024, a judge ordered Oqba Hashad's release after his pretrial detention in Case No. 7769/2019 of the SSSP exceeded the legal limit. Instead of releasing him, security forces forcibly disappeared him for 10 days and then opened investigations against him in a new case (Case No. 3391/2023 of the SSSP) on similar bogus charges. This abusive practice, known as "rotation," is used by authorities to keep people detained indefinitely without trial.

In April 2025, Oqba Hashad was referred to trial along with 75 others on bogus terrorism related charges. According to the indictment reviewed by Amnesty International, he was charged with "joining a terrorist group while being aware of its objectives". He is further accused of participating in a "criminal agreement intended to disrupt public order and commit terrorist crimes". He could face life imprisonment if convicted. Amnesty International considers the charges against Oqba Hashad to be unfounded; the prosecution did not present any evidence of his involvement in actions that could constitute criminal conduct. The organization considers that he is being punished for his brother's, Amr Hashad's, activism.

Since his arrest, Oqba Hashad was subjected to a litany of human rights violations including arbitrary detention, torture and other-ill treatment as well as denial of medical care. He was left without a prosthetic leg from August 2022 until November 2025. In November 2025, the prison administration finally provided him with a functional prosthetic leg. For the first time in years, during a prison visit in November 2025, he was able to embrace his mother. However, authorities continue to obstruct the delivery of essential medicine, and they have also subjected his family to intrusive searches during each visit. Moreover, one of Oqba Hashad's brothers was harassed by authorities following a prison visit on 15 January 2026. He was questioned for hours about how human rights organizations and supporters receive information about Oqba Hashad's prison conditions. According to his family, Oqba Hashad is exhausted, both physically and mentally, after seven years of unjust imprisonment. The prospect of his upcoming trial is exacerbating his anxiety, as he fears spending decades behind bars.

I urge you to ensure that Oqba Hashad is immediately and unconditionally released and all charges against him dropped as he is detained solely as a punishment for his brother's activism. Pending his release, he must be regular access to his family, lawyers and adequate healthcare including medication, and held in conditions that comply with international standards for the treatment of prisoners.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Oqba Hashad has been arbitrarily detained for nearly seven years without trial, solely due to his family affiliation, in particular the human rights activism of his brother Amr Hashad, a human rights activist who left Egypt in 2019. Prison authorities had interrogated Oqba Hashad on multiple occasions, most recently in October 2023, about his brother's human rights work and contact with his family in Egypt. They also questioned Oqba Hashad on whether he had shared any information with his brother about his prison conditions. His brother Amr Hashad had been arrested in 2014 in connection with his activism with the student union at Assiut University. Subsequently, a court sentenced Amr Hashad to three years in prison after convicting him of joining a terrorist organization, attempting to overthrow the government and inciting protests. From exile, Amr Hashad continued to document human rights violations in Egypt including enforced disappearances and cruel and inhuman detention conditions. Oqba Hashad's mother was also detained and questioned for nine hours during a visit to Shebin Al-Kom prison, where Oqba Hashad was held at the time, in a relation to a Facebook post written by Amr Hashad in December 2020 about his brother being banned from accessing his prosthetic leg and the injustices suffered by their family.

In violation of the absolute violation of torture and other ill-treatment, prison authorities have cruelly denied Oqba Hashad access to adequate healthcare and a prosthetic leg for over three years, causing him severe physical and psychological pain and suffering, including as he was forced to rely on other prisoners to meet his most basic needs. Oqba Hashad's right leg was amputated above the knee following a childhood accident, leaving him with significant mobility challenges and in urgent need of a properly fitted prosthetic limb. On 9 January 2024, Oqba Hashad was transferred to court without a wheelchair, hopping on one leg, and was forced to sit on the floor in front of the judge. The prison authorities are also refusing to grant him access to specialized medical care, not available in prison, raising fears about permanent and irreversible damage to his spinal column, according to independent doctors consulted by his relatives.

On 7 August 2022, relatives of Oqba Hashad's cellmate, who had visited the Wadi al-Natroun prison that day, called Oqba Hashad's family to inform them that his prosthetic leg broke. His family rushed to the prison to collect the broken prosthetic leg, and took it for repairs at a specialised clinic, where a doctor and an engineer told them that a replacement was needed. The family did not have the financial means to replace it and therefore sought to repair it instead. On 9 August 2022, when his relatives returned to the prison with the prosthetic leg, the prison authorities insisted on carrying out a thorough inspection, attempted to dismantle it and informed the family that they would submit it for further inspections. Oqba Hashad also suffers from severe back pain as he was his forced to sleep on the floor in his cell in Wadi El Natroun prison. In March 2024, after appearing in front of the SSSP for interrogation in a new Case No. 3391/2023 of the SSSP, Oqba Hashad was transferred to in the 10th of Ramadan prison (section 2), where he remains. During family visits, he told his family that the conditions in the 10th of Ramadan prison (section 2) were better than Wadi El Natroun without specifying details. Amnesty International has documented the [cruel and inhumane conditions of detention](#) inside the 10th of Ramadan prison (section 6). According to lawyers and relatives of detainees, all detainees are deprived of sunlight and only permitted daily exercise indoors.

In May 2019, National Security Agency (NSA) agents stormed Oqba Hashad's student residence at the University of Sadat City (USC), in Menoufia governorate, and arrested everyone without a warrant. All other students were released within days, except for Oqba Hashad. Following his arbitrary arrest, security forces forcibly disappeared Oqba Hashad for 77 days and subjected him to torture and other ill-treatment, including suspension by his arms from the ceiling, and electric shocks on his genitals and stump of his leg. On 1 August 2019, a prosecutor ordered his pre-trial detention pending investigations into charges of "joining a group formed against the rule of law" and "participating in demonstrations to overthrow the regime". Since then, his pretrial detention, which has long exceeded the two-year limit permitted under Egyptian law, has been extended.

As a state party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Egypt must fulfil its obligations to ensure that when persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty, they are, on an equal basis with others, entitled to guarantees in accordance with international human rights law and are provided with reasonable accommodation and with adequate health services (Article 14 of the CRPD).

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Arabic and English.

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 15 October 2026.

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Oqba Hashad (He/Him).

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/9153/2025/en/>