

URGENT ACTION

HEALTH OF UNJUSTLY JAILED ACTIVIST AT RISK

Prominent political activist and former spokesperson of the April 6 Youth Movement, Mohamed Adel, has been arbitrarily detained for over eight years solely for exercising his human rights. His physical and psychological health have severely deteriorated as a result of his prolonged arbitrary detention, denial of adequate healthcare and lack of access to sunlight. He continues to be denied examination by specialist doctors despite suffering from multiple serious health conditions, and has expressed suicidal thoughts and his intention to begin an open-ended hunger strike during a family visit on 6 July 2026.

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

Public Prosecutor Mohamed Shawky Ayyad

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Dear Counsellor,

I write to express my concern over the prolonged arbitrary detention of Mohamed Adel, a prominent political activist and former spokesperson of the April 6 Youth Movement. Mohamed Adel completed eight years in prison on 19 June 2026, simply for exercising his human rights. In September 2023, a misdemeanour court in Aga, Dakahlia governorate, sentenced him to four years' imprisonment on bogus charges, including "joining an unlawful group". However, prison authorities informed him that the five years he had already spent in pretrial detention would not be counted towards the implementation of his sentence, which they claimed would only begin on the date of the verdict, setting his expected release date as 2 September 2027. The Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) investigations against him in other cases on similar bogus charges, in a practice commonly referred to as "rotation" designed to keep critics locked up indefinitely.

Prison authorities continue to deny him adequate healthcare including being examined by specialist doctors for the various health conditions he has developed since his imprisonment. Mohamed Adel has been suffering from persistent chest pain, a shoulder dislocation, shoulder muscle atrophy, damage to the knee cartilage and cruciate ligament, fluid accumulation in his knee, gastrointestinal problems, and severe nail discolouration and deterioration. He has also been arbitrarily denied the right to sit his postgraduate examinations.

Mohamed Adel's wife reported that his psychological health had significantly deteriorated. During a prison visit on 6 July 2026, Mohamed Adel told her that he intended to begin an open-ended hunger strike because he no longer believed he would ever be released and expected to remain imprisoned until his death. He also expressed suicidal thoughts, saying that he wanted "to die quickly". She was only able to persuade him to postpone the hunger strike temporarily.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Mohamed Adel and drop all charges against him, as he is detained solely for exercising his human rights. Pending his release, ensure he is held in conditions meeting international standards and granted adequate access to his family, lawyers and qualified health professionals providing health care in compliance with medical ethics, including the principles of confidentiality, autonomy and informed consent.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mohamed Adel was first arrested on 19 December 2013 along with other activists on charges related to participating in unauthorized protests in contravention to the draconian Law No. 107 of 2013 on protests. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, followed by three years of police probation, and fined 50,000 Egyptian pounds (approximately 1,060 USD). He was released in January 2017 and placed under daily police probation from 6 pm to 6 am. On 19 June 2018, he was arrested again when he reported to Aga Police Station in Dakahlia governorate. He was accused of "joining an unlawful group" and "spreading false news" and detained in connection with Case No. 5606, Aga Administrative, Mansoura city, Dakahlia governorate. Shortly thereafter, he faced similar charges in case number 4118 of 2018 in Sherbin, Dakahlia governorate. In 2020, he was summoned to the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) and faced similar accusations in case number 467 of 2020 of the SSSP. He spent two years and seven months in pretrial detention until he was ordered released on 27 January 2021 on bail of 10,000 Egyptian pounds (approximately 215 USD). However, security forces refused to release him. He has been subjected to indefinite detention without trial, beyond the two-year legal limit for pre-trial detention, through the abusive practice commonly known of "rotation". He spent a further two years and seven months in pretrial detention until he was referred to trial in Case No. 2981 of 2023 and sentenced to four years' imprisonment on 2 September 2023. Following his arrest in June 2018, Mohamed Adel was detained in Mansoura prison, Dakahlia governorate. In May 2022, he was transferred to the Gamasa maximum security prison, also in Dakahlia governorate, following the demolition of Mansoura prison. On 31 December 2024, he was transferred from the Gamassa maximum security prison, where he was deprived of access to adequate food, to the 10th of Ramadan prison (Section 4).

On 15 January 2026, Mohamed Adel's family and lawyers filed an official complaint with the Public Prosecutor requesting an investigation into his claims of being assaulted in prison. He told his wife, during a prison visit on 14 January 2026, that other prisoners beat him, attempted to strangle him by pressing on his neck and threatened to kill him on 10 January 2026 after he was removed from his cell by guards, who failed to intervene. His wife confirmed seeing bruises on his right knee and strangulation marks on his neck. After the family publicly announced having submitted the complaint, the Ministry of Interior issued a statement on 15 January 2026, denying his assault. On 19 January 2026, the Attorney General at the Mansoura Appeals Prosecution questioned his wife and his father in relation to the complaint. Since the assault, 10th of Ramadan prison authorities have denied Mohamed Adel his daily exercise and confined him to his cell, allowing him to leave only for family visits. As a result, he has been deprived of sunlight. Meanwhile, there has been no progress in the investigation into the assault. Although prosecutors questioned him in prison on 27 January 2026, there has been no information on the progress of investigations. Mohamed Adel's health has deteriorated since he started a hunger strike on 7 December 2025 in protest of the authorities' refusal to release him, even though he served his sentence.

The 10th of Ramadan prison authorities allow his family to visit him once a month, with occasional exceptional visits granted for national or religious holidays. The Egyptian authorities have repeatedly denied Mohamed Adel access to adequate medical care inside prison and transfer to hospitals outside prison for diagnosis and treatment not available in prison. He has been taken for medical examination only once since his arrest in 2018, when Gamassa maximum security prison authorities transferred him in August 2024 to Mansoura General Hospital for several health conditions, including a torn knee ligament and fluid accumulation in the knee. According to a medical report he was allowed to view while at hospital, his condition requires knee joint replacement surgery, which has been denied. According to his wife, he also suffers from muscle atrophy in the shoulder and shoulder dislocation. In addition, he experiences undiagnosed chest pain. He has also developed dark brown discoloration of the fingernails and nail breakage of an unknown cause, given the failure of the authorities to refer him for medical examination. His health has also seriously deteriorated as a result of his ongoing hunger strike since 7 December 2025, during which he has experienced significant weight loss.

In 2024 and 2025, prison authorities prevented Mohamed Adel from sitting his postgraduate examinations as an associate student of public law at Mansoura University.

On 6 April 2026, prominent activist Ahmed Douma was arrested after appearing before the SSSP for questioning over an article published on 25 March 2026 about detention conditions. On 3 June 2026, the New Cairo Misdemeanour Court sentenced him to one year in prison with labour on charges of spreading "false news", solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Arabic and English

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 16 October 2026

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

NAME AND PRONOUN: Mohamed Adel (he/him)

PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/0711/2026/en/>