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Egypt: ECRF researcher Ibrahim Ezz El-Din detained in an unknown place

On 12 June 2019, human rights defender [Ibrahim Ezz El-Din](#) was arrested by the Egyptian security forces in Mokattam area and taken to an unknown location.

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din, is an architectural planning engineer and researcher at the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms (ECRF) who worked on the right to housing and forced evictions in Egypt. ECRF's staff members have been subject to continuous harassment by the Egyptian authorities for reporting on human rights abuses and crimes committed by Egyptian authorities. ECRF has campaigned extensively against the systematic use of enforced disappearance in Egypt, accusing the National Security Agency and the Military Intelligence Service of abducting political activists and holding them under incommunicado detention in secret detention centres. On the morning of 12 June 2019, Egyptian security forces arrested Ibrahim Ezz El-Din from the Mokattam area and took him to an unknown place. The Mokattam police station denied his presence within their premises.

The arrest of the human rights defender came after his criticism of governmental policies towards shanty urban areas, the manner in which the government has managed slums, certain mega projects in Egypt and their feasibility. The human rights defender's mother sent a telegraph to the Attorney General and the Minister of Interior, documenting the arrest of her son and demanding they reveal his whereabouts. ECRF's lawyers have also submitted a communication to the Attorney General.

This comes shortly after the arrest of ECRF lawyer [Haytham Mohamadeen](#), a labour rights lawyer and human rights defender. On 13 May 2019, he was forcibly disappeared for three days following his summons to Saf police station, in Giza governorate, after being wrongfully accused of violating his probation terms. When he went to the police station, the police arrested him and held him without access to his lawyer or family until 16 May 2019. Haytham Mohamadeen was previously arrested at his home on 22 April 2016 on charges of "joining a banned group, participating in an illegal protest and plotting the overthrow of the state." for which he served nearly two years in prison. He was released on 29 October 2018, on precautionary measures, 18 days after the Criminal Chamber of the Fifth Compound Courts Complex ruled in his favour.

Front Line Defenders strongly condemns the arbitrary arrests and repression by the Egyptian authorities of the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedom's staff members.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Egypt to:

1. Immediately inform the family and lawyer of human rights defender Ibrahim Ezz El-Din of his whereabouts, and allow them immediate and unfettered access to him;

2. Immediately and unconditionally release Ibrahim Ezz El Din and Haytham Mohamadeen, as Front Line Defenders believes that they are being held solely as a result of their legitimate and peaceful work in the defence of human rights;

3. Ensure that the treatment of Ibrahim Ezz El-Din and Haytham Mohamadeen, while in detention, adheres to the conditions set out in the 'Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment', adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988;

4. Cease all further harassment of ECRF members and staff;

5. Take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of ECRF staff members and all human rights defenders in Egypt;

6. Cease targeting all human rights defenders in Egypt and guarantee in all circumstances that they are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions including judicial harassment.