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Public Prosecutor

Mohamed Shawky Ayyad
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Madinat al-Rehab
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

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Dear Counsellor,

**I am writing to express my grave concern over the prolonged arbitrary detention of 64-year-old Ibrahim Metwaly since 10 September 2017, solely for his human rights activism including his efforts to secure truth and justice for his forcibly disappeared son**. Ibrahim Metwaly was arrested by Egyptian security forces at Cairo International Airport on his way to Geneva, where he was invited to attend the 113TH session of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to discuss enforced disappearances in Egypt. Following his arrest, he was held incommunicado for two days until he appeared be-fore the Supreme State Security Prosecutor (SSSP) in Cairo. He told his lawyers that during this period National Security Agency (NSA) officers stripped him naked, gave him electric shocks in various parts of his body, doused him in water, and beat him, in violation of the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment.

Ibrahim Metwaly was initially held in pre-trial detention pending investigations into charges of communicating with “foreign entities” and spreading «false news» under case No.900 of 2017. The SSSP opened two new criminal cases against him, namely case No.1470 of 2019 and No.786 of 2020, on similar charges. This abusive practice referred to as «rotation» has been systematically used by the authorities against critics to keep them in pre-trial detention indefinitely, in contravention of Egyptian law which sets two years as the maximum permissible period for pre-trial detention. In September and October 2024, the Egyptian authorities referred Ibrahim Metwaly to trial in Case No.900 of 2017 and No. 1470 of 2019, respectively, on charges of «joining a group that was founded in violation of the law and committing a crime of funding terrorism», among others. His lawyers have not been granted access to his casefiles to date, and no trial sessions have been scheduled yet.

In June 2022, after five years in Tora Prison Complex, Ibrahim Metwaly was transferred to Badr 3 prison where he remains. Ibrahim Metwaly suffers from multiple health conditions, including an enlarged prostate which requires urgent surgical intervention according to urologist. On 4 December 2024, his family submitted a request to the SSSP to approve his transfer to a specialized hospital outside the prison to undergo an urgent prostate surgery. The family’s request remains unanswered.

**I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Ibrahim Metwaly as he is detained solely for peacefully exercising his human rights. Pending his release, he must be held in conditions meeting international standards for the treatment of prisoners and granted access to adequate healthcare, including in outside hospitals if necessary, as well as his family and lawyers.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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