

PUBLIC

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**Further Information on UA 45/09 (MDE 12/005/2009, 18 February 2009) -
Incommunicado detention/ enforced disappearance/fear of torture/medical concern**

EGYPT

Dia' el Din Gad (m), aged 23

Dia' el Din Gad was transferred to al-Qota Prison in Giza, on the outskirts of the capital, Cairo, on 24 February, and was able to meet his family and lawyer there on 7 March. He is receiving treatment from the prison doctor. He is not known to have been charged with any offence, and is most probably held under an administrative detention order from the Minister of Interior, under the Emergency Law.

He complained that he was treated disrespectfully on his arrival in the prison and went on hunger strike on his first day there to demand better treatment and a cleaner cell. He abandoned the hunger strike after two days, according to his lawyer, after he was satisfied that his demands had been met.

Following his arrest on 6 February, Dia' el Din Gad was taken to the branch of the State Security Investigations (SSI) service in the city of Tanta, where he was kept for one day. He was then transferred first to the SSI headquarters in Lazoughly, in central Cairo, and subsequently to a major SSI facility in Nasr City, in the north-east of Cairo.

During interrogation, SSI officers repeatedly threatened to torture and otherwise ill-treat him, and other detainees were apparently brought in front of him and tortured with electric shocks. He was kept constantly blindfolded and heard screams of people who, it appeared, were being tortured. Dia' el Din Gad was not beaten but verbally abused and told he would never be released. He was given no access to medical attention, despite a pre-existing condition which affects his breathing and for which he takes painkillers and other medication.

Dia' el Din Gad was interrogated about his blog, about his participation in protests in solidarity with the people of Gaza during Israeli's recent military campaign there, about Egyptians suspected of having entered Gaza during the conflict, and about whether he has any connections with Hamas. He was also questioned about his involvement with Egyptian protest movements, including the Egyptian Movement for Change, known as Kefaya (Enough), and the 6 April Youth movement.

Amnesty International considers Dia' el Din Gad a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression, who should be released immediately and unconditionally.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is required from the UA network. Amnesty International will continue to campaign on behalf of Dia' el Din Gad through other means.