

OQBA HASHAD, Egypt

Twenty-seven-year-old Oqba Hashad was studying at university in Sadat City, north-west of Cairo, Egypt, when, on 20 May 2019, life as he knew it came to an end. In a seemingly random raid, National Security Agency agents stormed Oqba's dorm, arresting all the students present, including Oqba. After a few days, the other students were released – except Oqba. Agents realized Oqba was the brother of Amr Hashad, a human rights activist who, after fleeing Egypt earlier that year, continued to denounce the country's human rights violations from exile.

For 77 days, Oqba's family had no idea where he was, and they feared for his safety. During this time, Oqba was tortured – including electric shocks to his genitals and to the stump of his right leg, which had been amputated following an accident when he was a child.

In August 2022, the prosthetic leg Oqba needs to move freely broke. For 16 months prison authorities denied him a replacement, and Oqba has become reliant on other prisoners for everyday tasks.

On 4 January 2024, Oqba was finally given a new prosthesis; however it does not fit and causes further injury when used. Officials are also denying him the medicines needed to care for his stump, increasing the risk of infection.

On 20 February 2024, a judge ordered Oqba's release, as he had been held in pretrial detention for longer than the two years permitted by Egyptian law. To bypass this, prosecutors opened a new bogus case against him to justify his continued detention.

Oqba is being detained solely in retaliation for his brother's human rights work. Denied proper medical care and even a bed to sleep in, Oqba's psychological and physical health is gravely deteriorating.

SHOW OQBA AND HIS FAMILY THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE

Send your support to Oqba and his family; share your messages of hope in a card or letter.

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