

**Ambassador Ashraf Mohamed Mohieldin Elmoafi**

Embassy of Egypt in Budapest  
Istenhegyi út 7/b  
1124 - 1125 Budapest  
Hungary

Yours Excellency,

On behalf of Amnesty International Hungary, the Hungarian section of the global human rights movement, I am writing to express my concern about the arbitrary detention of the 29-year-old researcher and anthropology master's student from the Central European University, Ahmed Samir Santawy, and the pending investigations by the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP), a special branch of the Public Prosecution responsible for investigating national security threats. As you might know, Mr. Santawy is a former resident of Budapest whose friends and family from Egypt, Hungary and Austria are extremely concerned about his well-being.

Ahmed Samir Santawy was arrested on 1 February after he had presented himself at the office of the National Security Agency (NSA), in New Cairo, in response to a verbal summon. He was subjected to enforced disappearance until 6 February, when he was brought to the SSSP for questioning. He told the prosecutor that during this period he was held without access to his family or lawyer in three separate locations. He said he was blindfolded and punched in the head and stomach during questioning at the NSA office in the Fifth Settlement Police Station. NSA interrogators focused on his studies and involvement in an anti-government Facebook page. The prosecutor failed to order investigations into his allegations of being forcibly disappeared and beaten, and instead questioned him about this academic work and ordered his detention for 15 days pending investigations into charges of "membership in a terrorist group", "spreading false news" and "using a social media account to spread false news" in case No.65/2021. The SSSP based its accusations on a Facebook post deemed critical of the authorities that Ahmed Samir Santawy denied authoring, as well as an investigation file prepared by the NSA, which Ahmed Samir Santawy and his lawyers were not allowed to review.

Amnesty International considers Ahmed Samir Santawy to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely because of his academic interests and research focusing on gender and religion.

Ahmed Samir Santawy is currently held at Liman Tora Prison in the south of Cairo, without access to his family or lawyers. His detention without contact with the outside world raises concerns about his health and wellbeing, particularly given COVID-19 outbreaks in prisons, coupled with the lack of adequate medical care. He also has a history of mental health concerns, which may be exacerbated in prison particularly in the absence of adequate mental health care.

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Amnesty International is calling upon the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Ahmed Samir Santawy and open a prompt, independent, impartial, and effective investigation into his allegations of being forcibly disappeared and beaten. Pending his release, he must be granted immediate and regular access to his family and lawyers, provided with adequate health care and protected from torture and ill-treatment.

I will be most grateful for your assistance in ensuring that this letter is brought promptly to the attention of the relevant authorities, including the Office of the Public Prosecutor, and for any assistance you can provide in facilitating an early response. I am at your disposal in case of you would like to discuss the above-mentioned case.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dávid Vig', is written over a light blue grid background.

Dr. Dávid Vig  
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Hungary