



**A LETTER TO EGYPT'S PUBLIC PROSECUTOR  
COUNSELOR NABIL SADEK**

*center for refugee*  
**SOLIDARITY**  
مركز التضامن مع اللاجئين

Counselor Nabil Sadek  
Public Prosecutor  
Office of the Public Prosecutor  
Madinat Al-Rehab  
New Cairo  
Arab Republic of Egypt

Dear Counselor,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the lack of response from the Egyptian government in regards to the case of Yehia Zakareya.

On 6th November 2015 Zakareya was illegally detained and tortured by the Egyptian Security Forces. He was held for just under a week and \$500 confiscated from him. On 11th January 2016 the Center for Refugee Solidarity published a report calling on the Egyptian government to hold those responsible for the torture and detention of Zakareya to account.

On Thursday 18th February 2016, Zakareya met with the Sudanese Foreign Relations Committee, who have promised that the Sudanese foreign minister will be called for a hearing in Parliament in regards to Zakareya's case. Zakareya has also submitted a memo to the Sudanese government demanding reimbursement for the physical and psychological trauma he has suffered, and the return of his money.

To this day Zakareya has not received an official response from the Egyptian government addressing his case. However at the 2016 African Union Summit in Ethiopia, the Center's contact person in Sudan Heba Abdulazim met and questioned the Egyptian foreign minister, Sameh Shoukry, about Zakareya's case. He stated that the incidents of torture and imprisonment of Sudanese nationals were exceptional cases and the results of acts of individuals. Despite this recognition of the mistreatment of Sudanese nationals in Egypt there has been no official investigation into the individuals responsible.

In addition to this, Naser Aldain Yehia, Yehia's brother, was denied entry to Egypt on claims he had been involved in foreign currency trading, despite having received a visa from the Egyptian embassy in Khartoum. Naser's last trip to Egypt was to pick up his brother Yehia from prison in November 2015 and escort him back to Sudan, prior to that he had had no problems entering the country. This suggests that he is being punished for the illegal detention of his brother.

Yehia Zakareya was arrested on 6th November 2015 on suspicion of illegally trading currency, before entering an Egyptian currency exchange with \$500 for a surgery for his son in Egypt. Egyptian law states that foreigners can legally carry up to \$3000, however during 2015 Sudanese nationals in Egypt reported being harassed by the Egyptian authorities because of their possession of much smaller amounts, thus violating Egyptian national law. In violation of the public prosecutor's orders in November, Zakareya has still not been returned his money.

Further to this, during Yehia's detention he was tortured by the Egyptian security forces, which was documented by a physician in Khartoum after his release. The medical report stated that Zakareya suffered from:

- Swelling of the scalp from the back with suspected concussion
- Intraocular haemorrhage
- External wounds on his forearm and ankles
- External wounds on the right shoulder caused by burning
- Bruised back
- Anal fissure

This flouts Articles 52 and 55 of Egypt's 2014 Constitution and Article 40 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and amounts to violations of the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or punishment, which Egypt has ratified. In spite of this, there has been no investigation into the conduct of the security forces and no-one has been held accountable.

In light of the serious human rights violations against Yehia Zakareya the Center for Refugee Solidarity urges the Office of the Public Prosecutor in Egypt to:

- Thoroughly and impartially investigate the unlawful use of torture by the Egyptian Security Forces.
- Order security agencies to cooperate fully and prosecute any security officials who fail to do so, including by failing to deliver evidence or testify.
- Ensure that every investigation is conducted promptly and impartially; introduce regulatory timeframes for providing evidence; and ensure that prosecutors investigate all those responsible, including superiors.
- Facilitate the return of Zakareya's currency.
- Permit Naser Aladin Yehia entry to Egypt.

Rebecca Stewart - Senior Researcher & Advocate  
Center for Refugee Solidarity

Signature:

*Rebecca Stewart*

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