



Committee to Protect Journalists

## Journalists imprisoned in Egypt as of 2014

*The following is a list of journalists imprisoned in Egypt in relation to their work as of midnight, December 1, 2014, according to research by the Committee to Protect Journalists. The list includes the three Al-Jazeera journalists, who were deported or released on bail in early 2015 but whose charges remain active.*

1. *Mahmoud Abdel Nabi, Rassd, Arrested July 3, 2013*
2. *Mahmoud Abou Zeid (Shawkan), Freelance, Arrested August 14, 2013*
3. *Samhi Mustafa, Rassd, Arrested August 25, 2013*
4. *Abdullah al-Fakharny, Rassd, Arrested August 25, 2013*
5. *Mohamed al-Adly, Amgad TV, Arrested August 25, 2013*
6. *Ahmed Gamal, Yaqeen, Arrested December 28, 2013*
7. *Mohamed Fadel Fahmy, Al-Jazeera, Arrested December 29, 2013*
8. *Peter Grete, Al-Jazeera, Arrested December 29, 2013*
9. *Baher Mohamed, Al-Jazeera, Arrested December 29, 2013*
10. *Ahmed Fouad, Karmoz, Arrested January 25, 2014*
11. *Abdel Rahman Shaheen, Freedom and Justice News Gate, Arrested April 9, 2014*
12. *Ayman Saqr, Almesryoon, Arrested November 28, 2014*

### **1. Mahmoud Abdel Nabi, Rassd**

MEDIUM:

Internet

CHARGE:

Retaliatory

IMPRISONED:

July 3, 2013

Abdel Nabi, a correspondent for the critical news website *Rassd*, was arrested while covering clashes between supporters of ousted President Mohamed Morsi and supporters of the Egyptian army in the Sidi Beshr neighborhood in Alexandria, according to news reports. At least four people were killed and 84 injured in the clashes, reports said.

A prosecutor charged Abdel Nabi and at least 14 others with possessing weapons and inciting rioting, according to the state-run paper *Al-Ahram*. The journalist was being held at Burg Al-Arab prison outside Alexandria, according to *Rassd*.

Abdel Nabi's trial, which was delayed several times, was [ongoing](#) in late 2014.

After Morsi's ouster on July 3, 2013, the military-supported government detained dozens of local and international journalists. Most have been freed.

## **2. Mahmoud Abou Zeid (Shawkan), Freelance**

MEDIUM:

Internet, Print

CHARGE:

No Charge

IMPRISONED:

August 14, 2013

Abou Zeid, a freelance photographer, was detained while covering clashes between Egyptian security forces and supporters of ousted President Mohamed Morsi during the dispersal of the pro-Morsi sit-in at Rabaa Al-Adawiya in Cairo, according to news reports.

Abou Zeid has contributed to the U.K.-based citizen journalism site and photo agency Demotix and the digital media company Corbis. After his detention, Demotix sent a letter to the Egyptian authorities confirming that Abou Zeid had been covering the clashes for the agency, the photographer's brother, Mohamed Abou Zeid, told CPJ.

Abou Zeid was first detained by police and [held](#) in Cairo stadium with other protesters and foreign correspondents who were released the same day.

In September 2013, the Egyptian general prosecutor's office extended the journalist's pre-trial detention, accusing him of weapons possession, illegal assembly, murder, and attempted murder, the journalist's brother, Mohamed Abou Zeid, told CPJ. The same allegations were levied against hundreds of protesters detained during the clashes. As of late 2014, no official charges had been filed against him. Human rights groups said Abou Zeid's health had [deteriorated](#) in prison.

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Mohamed told CPJ that Abou Zeid's lawyer and the legal team at the Arab Network for Human Rights Information had appealed for his release. The appeal was denied. The journalist is being [held](#) at Tora Prison.

### **3. Samhi Mustafa, Rassd**

MEDIUM:

Internet

CHARGE:

Anti-state

IMPRISONED:

August 25, 2013

### **4. Abdullah al-Fakharny, Rassd**

MEDIUM:

Internet

CHARGE:

Anti-state

IMPRISONED:

August 25, 2013

### **5. Mohamed al-Adly, Amgad TV**

MEDIUM:

Television

CHARGE:

Anti-state

IMPRISONED:

August 25, 2013

Mustafa, co-founder of the news website *Rassd*, *Rassd* Executive Director Abdullah al-Fakharny, and Amgad TV presenter Mohamed al-Adly were [arrested](#) on August 25, 2013, in the home of the son of a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood. The three journalists were being held in Tora prison, southeast of Cairo.

In February 2014, the three were indicted in a Cairo criminal court along with 51 other defendants on charges of "spreading chaos" and "forming an operations room to direct the Muslim Brotherhood to defy the government" during the dispersal of the sit-in at Rabaa Al-Adawiya in Cairo, where Egyptians had gathered to decry the ouster of President Mohamed Morsi. The dispersal left hundreds dead, according to [news reports](#). The Egyptian government has declared the Muslim Brotherhood to be a terrorist organization.

The prosecutor-general also accused the Muslim Brotherhood of using several media outlets, including *Rassd* and Amgad TV, to support its plot to take over the government and spread lies about the military and the government.

Ahmed Helmy, Mustafa's lawyer, denied all of the charges against the journalists. Their trial was [ongoing](#) in late 2014.

CPJ did not include the three in its 2013 census because the organization had not determined that the allegations against them were related to their work as journalists.

## **6. Ahmed Gamal, Yaqeen**

MEDIUM:

Internet

CHARGE:

No Charge

IMPRISONED:

December 28, 2013

Gamal, a photojournalist for the online news network *Yaqeen*, was [arrested](#) on December 28, 2013, while covering student protests at Al-Azhar University in the Nasr City neighborhood of Cairo, according to news reports.

Yahya Khalaf, *Yaqeen*'s executive director, told CPJ that Gamal was accused on April 10, 2014, of participating in an illegal demonstration and assaulting a police officer. He had not been officially charged. A court postponed his hearing until late 2014. No trial date had been set as of late 2014, [according to his lawyer](#).

Khalaf told CPJ that *Yaqeen* had submitted documents that showed Gamal was working for the network at the time of his arrest. He was being held at Abu Zaabal prison.

On July 26, 2014, Gamal sent a letter to the local press freedom group Journalists Against Torture in which he said that he had been beaten and attacked in Abu Zaabal prison, according to [news reports](#). In August 2014, Gamal began waging a [hunger strike](#) to protest his detention, according to [news reports](#).

## **7. Mohamed Fadel Fahmy, Al-Jazeera**

MEDIUM:

Television

CHARGE:

Anti-state

IMPRISONED:

December 29, 2013

## **8. Peter Greste, Al-Jazeera**

MEDIUM:

Television

CHARGE:

Anti-state

IMPRISONED:

December 29, 2013

## **9. Baher Mohamed, Al-Jazeera**

MEDIUM:

Television

CHARGE:

Anti-state

IMPRISONED:

December 29, 2013

On June 23, 2014, a Cairo criminal court convicted Fahmy, the Cairo bureau chief of Al-Jazeera English, Al-Jazeera correspondent Peter Greste, and Baher Mohamed, an Egyptian producer for Al-Jazeera, on charges of "distorting the country's image abroad" and "fabricating news to aid the Muslim Brotherhood," which the government has declared a terrorist organization, according to news reports. Fahmy and Greste were [sentenced](#) to seven years in prison. Mohamed was handed a 10-year prison term on those charges, with an additional three years on a separate charge of possessing ammunition, according to [news reports](#).

The three were arrested on December 29, 2013, at the Marriott hotel in the Zamalek neighborhood of Cairo. During the trial, prosecutors aired footage that was unrelated to Egypt, according to [news reports](#). Photographs of a Sky Arabia report on animal cruelty and footage of a Nairobi news conference were shown, purporting to be evidence, the reports said.

Fahmy, an Egyptian-Canadian journalist, had previously reported for other news outlets including CNN and *The New York Times*, according to news reports. Prior to working for Al-Jazeera, Greste, an Australian journalist, had worked for a number of other news outlets, including Reuters and the BBC, news reports said. Mohamed had worked for other news outlets, including Japan's *Asahi Shimbun*, CNN, and Iran's Press TV, before he joined Al-Jazeera in 2013, news reports said.

On August 21, 2014, the journalists' lawyers appealed their convictions, according to [news reports](#). The date for the appeals had not been set in late 2014.

Fahmy, Greste, and Mohamed are being held in Tora prison.

## **10. Ahmed Fouad, Karmoz**

MEDIUM:

Internet

CHARGE:

Retaliatory

IMPRISONED:

January 25, 2014

Fouad, a reporter for the news website *Karmoz*, was [arrested](#) while covering a demonstration by members of the Muslim Brotherhood in the neighborhood of Sidi Beshr in Alexandria governorate, according to his [employer](#) and local press freedom [groups](#). The protest led to violent clashes between protesters and security forces.

Fouad was charged with "joining a group that aims to disrupt the law," "demonstrating without permission," "blocking a road," and "possessing a weapon," according to news reports. His first hearing was scheduled for December 14, 2014, according to *Karmoz*'s [Facebook page](#).

*Karmoz* denied the allegations against Fouad and said he was doing journalistic work at the time of his arrest. The website covers local news and politics in Alexandria.

On September 27, Fouad announced that he had begun a hunger strike from Al-Grbuniat prison, known also as Burj Al Arab, in Alexandria, according to news reports.

### **11. Abdel Rahman Shaheen, Freedom and Justice News Gate**

MEDIUM:

Internet

CHARGE:

Retaliatory

IMPRISONED:

April 9, 2014

Shaheen, a correspondent for *Freedom and Justice News Gate*, was [arrested](#) on the street in Suez City, according to news reports. *Freedom and Justice News Gate* is a news website affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood, which the Egyptian government has declared to be a terrorist organization.

In June, a Suez court [sentenced](#) Shaheen to three years in prison and 10,000 Egyptian pounds (US\$1,400) on charges of inciting and committing violence during protests.

*Freedom and Justice News Gate* condemned the arrest and denied the allegations against Shaheen in a statement issued shortly after the journalist's arrest. Shaheen's wife [said](#) the court did not allow his defense lawyer to present his case and did not inform them of the verdict, news reports said.

Fouad is serving his prison term at Ataq Prison in Suez Governorate in northeastern Egypt, according to [news reports](#). His appeal was [ongoing](#) in late 2014.

## **12. Ayman Saqr, Almesryoon**

MEDIUM:

Internet

CHARGE:

Retaliatory

IMPRISONED:

November 28, 2014

Saqr, an editor for the news website *Almesryoon*, was [arrested](#) in the Mostorod neighborhood of Cairo while heading home after covering demonstrations in the Matareya neighborhood of the capital, according to his [employer](#). The Salafi Front, a group of conservative Islamists, [called](#) for the nationwide demonstrations to protest the government's crackdown.

*Almesryoon* is a news website supportive of the Muslim Brotherhood, according to CPJ's review of the website.

Saqr's lawyer [told](#) the *Freedom and Justice News Gate*, a news website affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood, that the journalist was accused of "taking pictures of police equipment without permission" and "joining the Muslim Brotherhood," which the Egyptian government has declared to be a terrorist organization.

Fathy Magdi, editor-in-chief of *Almesryoon*, [told](#) the local press freedom group Journalists Against Torture that the website sent a letter to the prosecutor saying that Saqr was conducting journalistic work at the protest and had not been involved in the demonstration.



Cairo's fifth district prosecutor denied Saqr's appeal for release on December 1, 2014, and ordered his continued detention for 15 days pending investigation, according to [news](#) reports. Saqr is being held at Matareya police station. He had not been officially charged in late 2014.