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**PUBLIC STATEMENT**

LATEST DEVELOPMENT
December 26, 2025

# Alaa Abd El-Fattah's release must lead to reform in Egypt

Amnesty Freedom welcomes Alaa Abd El-Fattah's release and calls for an end to detention for peaceful expression in Egypt.

## What we know

Egyptian authorities detained Alaa Abd El-Fattah again in 2019. In 2021 an emergency court sentenced him to five years on a false-news charge related to a social media post. He was pardoned and released on September 22, 2025. After a travel ban was lifted, it was announced on December 26, 2025, that he had arrived in the United Kingdom and been reunited with his family. His family, including his mother Laila Soueif, campaigned for his release. [1–5]

## Our position

No one should be imprisoned for a social media post, and release by pardon does not undo years of detention. Travel bans should not follow people after they are free. Egypt is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. [6–7]

## Our calls

Amnesty Freedom calls on the authorities to:

1. Review cases involving peaceful speech and release people held solely for exercising that right.
2. Guarantee access to counsel and medical care.
3. Credit pretrial detention toward sentences, and provide independent review of disputed detention periods.
4. Lift travel bans imposed for peaceful activism.

## Supporting information


1. Egyptian activist Alaa Abd el-Fattah released from prison after presidential pardon
2. Egypt: Prisoner of conscience Alaa Abdel Fattah granted presidential pardon after six years of unjust imprisonment - Amnesty International
3. British-Egyptian journalist Alaa Abdel Fattah finally freed from prison in Egypt | RSF
4. Pardon of Egyptian-British Writer Corrects a Deep Injustice - PEN America
5. Egyptian-British activist Alaa Abd el-Fattah arrives in UK after release from Egyptian prison
6. United Nations, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
7. UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 34 on freedom of expression



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**Note to editors:** *This statement is based on the public sources listed above. The date shown is that of the most recent development recorded in those sources; later developments may not be reflected.*



2026 Amnesty Freedom — Est. 2026 — EIN 41-4314632
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