

# EGYPT'S TOTALITARIAN TURN: AL-SISI'S CRACKDOWN DEEPENS

May 2018

Following his sham re-election in March 2018, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi is deepening his crackdown on dissent. Citizens involved in peaceful pro-democracy activism, research, or government criticism on social media have been detained under shadowy National Security Case 621/2018. Others have been handed harsh prison sentences in unfair military trials. Those targeted have diverse political profiles and include prominent figures previously left alone by the regime. All this suggests al-Sisi is aiming to transform Egypt from an authoritarian system that limits independent politics into a totalitarian one that wants to eliminate them entirely.

## Wael Abbas

AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST  
AND PROMINENT BLOGGER

Arrested without a warrant and blindfolded, and now being investigated as part of [Case 441/2018](#), which has targeted numerous journalists accused of spreading false news and belonging to banned groups.

## Haitham Mohamedeen

ACTIVIST AND  
LABOR RIGHTS LAWYER

Arrested and accused of participating in the activities of a banned group and using the Internet to incite terrorist acts; was detained in 2013 for belonging to a secret organization and for allegedly spreading lies about the military and in 2016 for calling for protests against the transfer of two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia.

## Amal Fathy

DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST

Arrested after posting a Facebook video that criticized the government for silencing women rather than addressing rampant sexual harassment. Her husband Mohamed Lofy, the director of the independent Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms, was arrested at the same time and released after several hours.

## Hisham Geneina

FORMER HEAD OF THE  
CENTRAL AUDITING AUTHORITY

Convicted in a military court and sentenced to five years in prison on charges of spreading false news about the military. Part of former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Sami Anan's aborted presidential campaign, Geneina was attacked by suspected pro-regime thugs in January and subsequently arrested after claiming Anan had incriminating documents on Egypt's leadership.



## Ismail al-Iskandrani

JOURNALIST, EXPERT ON MILITANT  
GROUPS IN THE SINAI, AND FORMER  
FELLOW AT THE WOODROW WILSON  
CENTER AND NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

Convicted in a military court and sentenced to 10 years in prison—after two and a half years in pretrial detention—on charges of publishing military secrets and “belonging to a banned organization.”

## Shady Ghazaly Harb

PROMINENT LIBERAL  
POLITICAL ACTIVIST

Arrested for insulting the president, spreading false news, and joining a banned group. His release was denied even after posting bail.

## Shady Abu Zeid

COMEDIAN, SATIRIST,  
AND VIDEO BLOGGER

Arrested on charges of joining an outlawed group and spreading false news.

## Abdel Moneim Aboul-Fotouh

PROMINENT OPPOSITION FIGURE,  
FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE  
(STRONG EGYPT PARTY)

Arrested and charged with communicating with the Muslim Brotherhood and incitement to topple the government after appearing on an Al Jazeera broadcast in London.

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