



## AI Group 48 Portland, Oregon

March 2026 Newsletter

Next Meeting March 12th on Zoom



### Urgent Action: Hong Kong • Activists Suffer Under Solitary Confinement

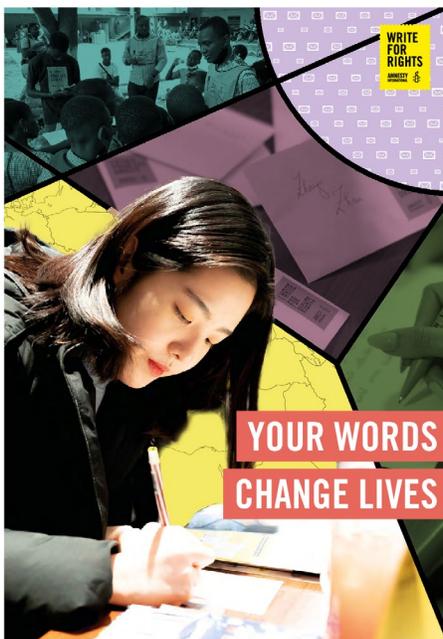
Name and Pronoun: Chow Hang-tung (she/her), Jimmy Lai (he/him) and Owen Chow (he/him)

Imprisoned activists Chow Hang-tung, Jimmy Lai, and Owen Chow are among many detained in Hong Kong who have been or are currently subject to solitary confinement lasting weeks, months, or even in extreme cases, years. It appears that solitary confinement is sometimes imposed as a form of punishment, or applied arbitrarily and without sufficient justification, in violation of international human rights standards. Prolonged or unjustified solitary confinement may amount to torture or other ill-treatment.

Jimmy Lai is a pro-democracy activist and newspaper owner. On December 15, 2025, he was convicted of conspiracy to commit collusion with foreign forces and conspiracy to commit sedition, and on February 9, 2026, sentenced to 20 years in prison in this case. Jimmy Lai founded the outspoken Apple Daily in 1995. Shortly after the National Security Law (NSL) was introduced on June 30, 2020, nearly 200 police raided the newspaper's headquarters. It was the first time the law was invoked to search a media outlet's premises, and Lai was arrested along with his two sons and several newspaper executives. Apple Daily closed in June 2021 following another police raid and the freezing of its assets, in what

Amnesty at the time called a “brazen attack on press freedom”.

Lawyer Chow Hang-tung was the vice-chairperson of the now-defunct Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China (HK Alliance). For 30 years, the HK Alliance organized annual vigils in Hong Kong to commemorate the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown – during which at least hundreds of peaceful protesters were killed by troops in Beijing – until the vigils were banned by the government since 2020. Chow was subsequently charged with “inciting subversion of state power” under the NSL solely for her peaceful work for the HK Alliance. She has been under pre-trial detention for years; her trial began on January 22, 2026.



Owen Chow is a pro-democracy activist who actively participate in the 2014 Umbrella Movement and 2019 Ant extradition protests in Hong Kong. Chow was convicted in the Hong Kong 47 case and received the second longest sentence among all defendants. The charges related to organization of and participation in “primaries” for the 2020 Legislative Council elections. The Hong Kong 47 case is the largest joint prosecution under the NSL and has exemplified issues of unfair

trials and Beijing's suppression of the pro-democracy movement and freedom of expression in Hong Kong. Chow was also convicted in two other criminal cases, resulting in a total prison term of more than 12 years and 10 months for actions connected to his peaceful exercise of freedom of expression and assembly. As a result, he will not be released until at least 2032.

Hong Kong's Prison Rules provide for two types of solitary confinement, both in violation of international standards. Rule 63 allows for punitive solitary confinement of up to 28 days for disciplinary offenses. Rule 68B authorizes administrative solitary confinement initially for 72 hours and for a further period of up to one month for vague non-punitive purposes.

The NSL was enacted directly by the Chinese government, bypassing the Hong Kong legislature, and came into effect on June 30, 2020. With its vague language, stringent threshold for bail and system of specially appointed judges, the NSL appeared to be wide open to politically motivated and arbitrary interpretation by the authorities. In 2024, the government enacted another piece of national security legislation – known as Article 23 – which has further restricted human rights. Research published last year by Amnesty International found that more than 80% of people convicted under national security laws have been wrongly criminalized and should never have been charged in the first place.

## Sample Letter

*Dear Commissioner Wong,*

*I am writing to express my grave concern for detained activists Chow Hang-tung, Jimmy Lai, and Owen Chow, who are currently detained in correctional institutions. They have been charged solely for their peaceful exercise of human rights.*

*It is alarming to read reports that indicate they are currently, or were previously, subjected to prolonged periods of solitary confinement. While authorities have sometimes claimed – including in Lai's case – that solitary confinement was imposed at the inmates' own request, Amnesty International research has found that some inmates in Hong Kong have been coerced into making such requests.*

*The practices also raise serious concerns, as solitary confinement appears to be used in a way that is punitive or retaliatory rather than for legitimate prison management purposes. Chow Hang-tung has said she often faced solitary confinement after exercising her*

## TAKE ACTION:

Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter provided as a guide or use your own words. Click [here](#) to report your action(s) on UA 11.26. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Commissioner Wong Kwok-hing  
Commissioner of Correctional Services  
24th Floor, Wanchai Tower,  
12 Harbour Road,  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong  
Email: comroffice@csd.gov.hk

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

Chinese Embassy in the United States  
Ambassador Xie Fang  
3505 International Place, NW,  
Washington, DC 20008  
Email: chinaembpress\_us@mfa.gov.cn

Please take action until May 31, 2026. Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

*right to freedom of expression, for example by drafting an acceptance statement for the CCBE Human Rights Award and undertaking a hunger strike to commemorate the Tiananmen crackdown. In accordance with international standards, solitary confinement should only be used as an exceptional measure, for as short a time as possible, and must never exceed 15 days under any circumstances.*

*I call on you to immediately stop imposing unlawful solitary confinement on Chow Hang-tung, Jimmy Lai, Owen Chow and all imprisoned activists. I urge you to review and amend the current Prison Rules to ensure full compliance with international standards. Finally, I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release the above individuals and any other detainees who are imprisoned simply for their exercise of human rights.*

*Yours sincerely,*

## **Ukraine: Four Years on from Russia's Full-Scale Invasion, Unwavering Global Commitment to Justice is Paramount**

February 23, 2026 - Ahead of the fourth anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Erika Guevara-Rosas, Amnesty International's Senior Director for Research, Advocacy, Policy and Campaigns, said:

"The people of Ukraine have now endured another year of full-scale aggression, the most devastating so far in terms of its humanitarian consequences, and deadliest in terms of civilian casualties since 2022.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his senior officials indicted by the International Criminal Court remain fugitives from international justice.

"Despite the ongoing aggression, international resolve to oppose Russia's crimes under international law and support its victims has come under increasing strain in recent months, particularly since the beginning of Donald Trump's presidency. Commitments to justice and human rights are weakening as powerful actors grow emboldened to disregard international law and further erode the rules-based order.

"We see this in rhetoric minimizing Russia's responsibility for serious violations, and in proposals suggesting that impunity for aggression and other crimes is an acceptable price to pay to end the fighting. Injustice must be addressed, not normalized. Impunity must be challenged, not embedded in peace proposals.

"Ukrainian civilians continue to endure daily indiscriminate attacks. Critical infrastructure indispensable for survival has been relentlessly destroyed, placing millions of lives at risk. Russian forces continue to torture prisoners of war, and terrorize and deny them their identity. All the while, Moscow demands control over more Ukrainian territory as part of 'peace negotiations.'

"The world must not forget that since Russia's occupation and illegal annexation of Crimea 12 years ago, it has brought devastation and immense suffering to the people of Ukraine, both in the occupied territory and beyond. Millions have been displaced, countless families have been left homeless, and far too many lives lost. Russia's aggression – a crime under international law – has tested not only the courage and resilience of Ukrainians, but also the resolve of the international community to uphold human rights and ensure justice.

"The resolve of the international community must not falter. It is paramount that the people of Ukraine

receive truth, justice and reparations for the devastating impact this war has inflicted over the past twelve years — and continues to inflict on the country, its people, its land, and its future."

### **With 150 Dead, Congress Must Halt Relentless Campaign of Murder at Sea**

FEBRUARY 24, 2026 -- Responding to the death toll reaching 150 from U.S. air strikes against boats in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific, Amnesty International USA's National Director for Government Relations, Amanda Klasing, said:

"The U.S. military has reached a grim, shameful milestone by announcing 3 more killings in the Caribbean, bringing the total dead to 150. These deaths are the latest killings in what, under both domestic and international law, can sadly be understood as dozens of murders conducted at sea with complete impunity.

"It is well past time for Congress to act to stop these killings. Since the U.S. military started its air strike campaign last September, some lawmakers have tried to take legislative action to stop them, but as a whole Congress has abdicated its duty to hold this administration to account for its actions. Congress must work together to exercise its oversight role. Legislators must do everything in their power to halt these air strikes and seek accountability for the policies and actions that have led to these murders.

"Regardless of what dubious cover a Department of Justice analysis may provide, these killings amount to extrajudicial executions, a form of murder. Intercepting purported drug boats is a law enforcement operation, subject to policing standards derived from international human rights law, which holds that all people have the rights to life and to a fair trial and only allows states to use lethal force when an imminent threat to life exists and less extreme means, like capture, are insufficient.

"A state intentionally killing someone outside those circumstances is committing an extrajudicial execution, no matter what crime the person is alleged to have committed. These strikes must stop, and perpetrators, including high-ranking officials, must be held to account."

## Amnesty International USA Announces Nadia Daar as New Executive Director

February 26th, 2026 -- Amnesty International USA is pleased to announce Nadia Daar as its next Executive Director, succeeding Paul O'Brien who will be retiring in April 2026.

As AIUSA's Chief Strategy and Impact Officer for the last three years, Nadia has demonstrated outstanding leadership, commitment to charting paths forward to protect human rights in a rapidly evolving environment and strengthening Amnesty International's people power as the largest grassroots human rights organization in the world. Under Nadia's leadership, AIUSA will continue to leverage its unique position as a globally networked U.S.-based organization working to uphold human rights increasingly under assault both here in the United States and around the world.

"With two decades of deeply impactful work on social justice and human rights spanning issues and geographies, including three years of sound leadership within AIUSA, the board of directors unanimously and enthusiastically selected Nadia to be the new leader of our organization at this pivotal moment to protect human rights," said Chris Foley, AIUSA Chair of the Board. "Nadia brings the vision, experience and unwavering commitment needed for this moment. Under her leadership, AIUSA will continue to tirelessly defend human rights against the rising abuses in the U.S. and around the world."

In her role as Chief Strategy and Impact Officer, Nadia has been responsible for overseeing AIUSA's programs, advocacy, campaigning, research and communications teams. She has led the organization to achieve meaningful wins for human rights domestically and internationally, while steering it to be more adaptive and agile given rising authoritarian practices and the accompanying serious risks to human rights and those that defend them. Prior to joining AIUSA, Nadia was the head of Oxfam International's Washington, D.C. office for several years, leading their advocacy, policy and worldwide

network to influence international financial institutions to address globally relevant issues, including economic inequality, climate change, and shrinking civic space. She has also worked with civil society in the Middle East and North Africa focusing on areas related to transparency, accountability and participation. She is a leading expert on multilateral advocacy and community rights in development, and has worked with NGOs, grassroots activists, impacted

communities, and governments across a range of countries over 20 years to advance social justice and human rights.

AIUSA's current Executive Director, Paul O'Brien, will retire April 15 and join his spouse in Ireland. He has served in the position since 2021

and is leaving the organization in a healthy and strong position, with exceptional staff and dedicated members, growing partnerships and more support in the United States than ever.

"It has been the honor of my life to lead AIUSA and I cannot imagine a better leader to take this organization into the future than Nadia Daar," said Paul O'Brien, AIUSA's outgoing executive director. "I've had the privilege of working closely with Nadia for a number of years and know her integrity, courage, and wisdom. Amnesty International USA is strong and ready for this crucial moment in the fight for human rights. I cannot wait to see where the organization will go under Nadia's leadership in the coming years."

"I'm both humbled and energized to take up the leadership of AIUSA at this critical moment where the human rights context in the U.S. and globally demands that we be bold, creative, and collaborative," said Nadia Daar. "I believe deeply in our mission and I'm committed to ensuring that Amnesty International's efforts to stop human rights abuses and fight for a future of dignity and justice for all, grow stronger and more impactful. I look forward to building on AIUSA's legacy, while continuing to evolve the organization to meet current challenges head on."



## Urgent Action: United States • Release Cuban Asylum Seeker with Diabetes

### Name and Pronoun: Denis Cabrera Rodríguez (he/him/his)

On November 26, 2025, Denis Cabrera Rodríguez, a Cuban man seeking asylum, was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). He is currently detained at Krome North Service Processing Center in Florida. Denis lives with Type 1 Diabetes and is dependent on an insulin pump. ICE is refusing to allow him to have his insulin pump in detention, depriving him of proper medical care. His health is rapidly deteriorating. Demand Denis' immediate release from detention and until that happens, ensure that authorities provide him with adequate healthcare to prevent further health deterioration and possible death.

Denis Cabrera Rodríguez, age 33, is a Cuban artist and human rights activist linked to artistic movements such as the San Isidro and 27N movements. In Cuba, he was censored, arbitrarily detained, tortured, and forcibly disappeared for his work and activism. He entered the United States in 2022 and claimed asylum. His asylum application remains pending. On November 26, 2025, he was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Denis was diagnosed with diabetes at ten years old. Since his transfer to Krome, Denis has not received adequate glucose monitoring, insulin, or food which have dramatically impacted his health. ICE is not permitting him to have his insulin pump while in detention. His health is deteriorating daily, and ICE has denied his requests to be transferred to a hospital.

The Krome North Service Processing Center (Krome) is an ICE detention facility located in Miami-Dade County in the city of Miami on the edge of the Everglades. The day-to-day operations of the facility are currently handled by Akima Global Services, LLC, which has managed the facility for over a decade. Krome is one of the oldest and largest ICE detention facilities in the United States. For decades, organizations, lawyers, and direct service providers have denounced the detention conditions at Krome, including severe overcrowding, chronic limitations in access to adequate quality medical care tied to multiple deaths in custody, degrading and abusive treatment, and procedural failures that undermine individuals' access to counsel and due process. Research by Amnesty International has found that individuals detained at

Krome face serious barriers to accessing adequate medical care, including lack of treatment and delays in assessing and treating health conditions. During the 2025 fiscal year thus far, at least four individuals have died while detained at Krome – Ramesh Amechand, Genry Ruiz Guillen, Maksym Chernyak, and Isidro Pérez – raising serious concerns about access to quality healthcare at the facility.

On November 16, 2025, there were 65,135 individuals in ICE detention, which is largely considered an undercount because it does not include thousands of people in short-term ICE processing facilities, ICE field offices, federal pre-trial detention, or other facilities. At least 25 individuals have died in ICE custody during the 2025 fiscal year (22 after January 20, 2025), compared with 12 individuals in the 2024 fiscal year. ICE has adopted a policy which makes individuals who entered the U.S. irregularly ineligible for bond meaning that they are forced to remain in detention for the duration of their removal proceedings. This includes individuals with pending asylum claims who are now being detained until their claims are decided. Under international law, asylum seekers should not be penalized for their manner of entry into a country. They should also not be removed from a country until their claim for refugee protection has been properly assessed through a fair refugee status determination process.

The passage in July 2025 of the 2025 Reconciliation Bill, otherwise known as Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill Act", has expanded ICE's budget to \$150 billion of taxpayer dollars to carry out its mass detention and deportation plan, including \$45 billion for detention expansion.

### Sample Letter

*Dear Field Office Director Kelei Walker,*

*On November 26, 2025, Denis Cabrera Rodríguez (A#: 241-909-042), a Cuban citizen seeking political asylum in the United States, was detained despite having a pending asylum claim. Denis is an artist and human rights activist linked to artistic movements such as the San Isidro and 27N movements. In Cuba, he was censored, arbitrarily detained, tortured, and forcibly disappeared for his work and activism.*

*Denis was diagnosed with diabetes at ten years old. According to his family, prior to his detention, he*

relied on an insulin pump to manage his blood sugar and administer insulin when needed. Since his transfer to Krome, Denis has not received adequate glucose monitoring, insulin, or food which have dramatically impacted his health. ICE is not permitting him to have his insulin pump while in detention.

Amnesty International has received information that Denis is now experiencing complications that require urgent and consistent medical care that he can only adequately receive outside of detention. Without proper care, Denis is at risk of serious medical complications resulting from his underlying chronic illness, including amputation of limbs, falling into a coma, and death.

Denis should have never been detained as authorities cannot lawfully return him to Cuba. Moreover, the dangerous and inadequate conditions at Krome have been well documented by numerous organizations that detail the substandard medical care, unsanitary conditions, abuse, and mistreatment that has led to preventable deaths in custody.

Denis is in urgent need of medical care, and his condition is worsening every day. I implore you to ensure that Denis is immediately released and provided with the urgent medical care he desperately needs.

Sincerely,

#### TAKE ACTION:

Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.

Kelei Walker, ICE Field Office Director  
Email: Miami.Outreach@ice.dhs.gov

Click [here](#) to report your action(s) on UA 104.25. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Please take action as soon as possible until June 11th, 2026



## U.S. Authorities Must Immediately Release Journalist Estefany Rodríguez

March 9th, 2026--Amnesty International USA demands the immediate release of Estefany Rodríguez, a journalist detained in Nashville, Tennessee by Department of Homeland Security agents reportedly without warrant on March 4 despite being in the United States legally, according to news reports.

“Ms. Rodríguez must be urgently released and returned to her community and journalism work,” said Justin Mazzola, Deputy Director for Research at Amnesty International USA. “The U.S. immigration system must not be weaponized to silence the work of journalists.”

Ms. Rodríguez works for Nashville Noticias and Univision 42 Nashville and covers immigration enforcement as part of her portfolio. She was detained while traveling in her Nashville Noticias-branded vehicle. Originally from Colombia where she received death threats for her reporting work, she is currently seeking asylum in the U.S. According to news reports, after being detained, she was transferred to an ICE processing center in Louisiana last Thursday.

“Ms. Rodríguez’s detention is yet another stark example of the escalating and overlapping attacks on the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and the rights of immigrants in the U.S.,” said Mazzola. “Amnesty International reminds the U.S. government that it is obligated to protect freedom of expression, including freedom of the press. A free press plays a vital role in holding governments and other powerful actors to account. To do this, journalists must be able to report freely and independently without being threatened, intimidated or punished. No one should live in fear of retaliation for their reporting. Through increasing authoritarian practices, President Trump seeks to create this fear and chilling effect. We will never allow this ruthless attack on reporters covering the truth to be normalized.”

## Urgent Action: Egypt • Prominent Activist Assaulted in Prison

### Name and Pronoun: Mohamed Adel (he/him)

Prominent political activist and former spokesperson of the April 6 Youth Movement, Mohamed Adel, has been on a hunger strike since December 7, 2025 in protest at his arbitrary detention since June 2018. In September 2023, a misdemeanor court in Aga, Dakahlia governorate, sentenced him to four years in prison on bogus charges including “joining an unlawful group”. Authorities have refused to release him even though he spent over seven years in prison, as he is facing investigations into similar bogus charges in separate cases all stemming from the peaceful exercise of his human rights. According to information gathered by Amnesty International, on January 10, 2026, some prisoners in 10th of Ramadan prison assaulted him and attempted to strangle him, while prison officials failed to intervene. He is denied adequate healthcare for numerous health conditions including chest pain, a torn knee ligament, and shoulder dislocation.

Mohamed Adel was first arrested on December 19, 2013, along with other activists on charges related to participating in unauthorized protests in contravention to the draconian Law No. 107 of 2013 on protests. He was sentenced to three years’ imprisonment, followed by three years of police probation, and fined 50,000 Egyptian pounds (approximately 1,060 USD). He was released in January 2017 and placed under daily police probation from 6 pm to 6 am. On June

19, 2018, he was arrested again when he reported to Aga Police Station in Dakahlia governorate. He was accused of “joining an unlawful group” and “spreading false news” and detained in connection with Case No. 5606, Aga Administrative, Mansoura city, Dakahlia governorate. Shortly thereafter, he faced similar charges in case number 4118 of 2018 in Sherbin, Dakahlia governorate. In 2020, he was summoned to the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) and faced similar accusations in case number 467 of 2020 of the SSSP. He spent two years and seven months in pretrial detention until he was ordered released on January 27, 2021 on bail of 10,000 Egyptian pounds (approximately 215 USD). However, security forces refused to release him. He has been subjected to indefinite detention without trial, beyond the two-year legal limit for pre-trial detention, through the abusive practice commonly known of “rotation”. He spent a further two years and seven months in pretrial detention until he was referred to trial in Case No. 2981 of 2023 and sentenced to four years’ imprisonment on September 2, 2023.

In the 10th of Ramadan prison, where he is currently detained, prison authorities allow his family to visit him once a month, with occasional exceptional visits granted for national or religious holidays. The Egyptian authorities have repeatedly denied Mo-



#### Group Coordinators

Marty Fromer and Terrie Rodello

Newsletter -- Daniel Webb

OR Area Coordinator -- Marty Fromer

Indonesia actions -- Max White

China / Uyghur actions -- Marty Fromer

Central Africa/ Oregon State Death

Penalty Abolition-- Terrie Rodello

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hamed Adel access to adequate medical care inside prison and transfer to hospitals outside prison for diagnosis and treatment not available in prison. He has been taken for medical examination only once since his arrest in 2018, when Gamassa maximum security prison authorities transferred him in August 2024 to Mansoura General Hospital for several health conditions, including a torn knee ligament and fluid accumulation in the knee. According to a medical report he was allowed to view while in the hospital, his condition requires knee joint replacement surgery, which has been denied. According to his wife, he also suffers from muscle atrophy in the shoulder and shoulder dislocation. In addition, he experiences undiagnosed chest pain. He has also developed dark brown discoloration of the fingernails and nail breakage of an unknown cause, given the failure of the authorities to refer him for medical examination. His health has also seriously deteriorated as a result of his ongoing hunger strike since December 7, 2025, during which he has experienced significant weight loss.

In 2024 and 2025, prison authorities prevented Mohamed Adel from sitting his postgraduate examinations as an associate student of public law at Mansoura University.

On January 20, 2026, security forces arrested activist Ahmed Douma without a warrant from his home in Cairo in apparent retaliation for expressing solidarity with Mohamed Adel online and seeking accountability for his reported assault in prison. SSSP prosecutors interrogated Ahmed Douma for over 12 hours before releasing him on bail of 100,000 Egyptian pounds (approximately 2,120 USD).

## Sample Letter

*Dear Counselor,*

*I write to express my concern over the prolonged arbitrary detention of Mohamed Adel, a prominent political activist and former spokesperson of the April 6 Youth Movement. He was arrested in June 2018 in connection with the peaceful exercise of his human rights and subsequently prosecuted in multiple cases on similar charges, including “joining an unlawful group” and spreading “false news.”*

*On January 15, 2026, Mohamed Adel’s family and lawyers filed a formal complaint to the Public Prosecutor requesting an investigation into his reported assault claims by fellow prisoners on January 10. by other prisoners on January 10, 2026. Prison guards failed*

*to intervene during his assault. Following the public disclosure of the complaint, the Ministry of Interior issued a statement denying his assault. Mohamed Adel’s health has continued to decline since beginning a hunger strike on December 7, 2025, in protest of the authorities’ refusal to release him, despite having served his sentence.*

*I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Mohamed Adel and drop all charges against him, as he is detained solely for exercising his human rights. Pending his release, ensure he is held in conditions meeting international standards and is granted adequate access to his family, lawyers, and qualified health professionals providing health care in compliance with medical ethics.*

*Yours sincerely,*

## TAKE ACTION

Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.

Public Prosecutor Mohamed Shawky Ayyad  
Office of the Public Prosecutor,  
Madinat al-Rehab  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt  
Fax: +202 2577 4716;  
Twitter/X: @EgyptianPPO

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

Egyptian Embassy in the United States  
Ambassador Motaz Zahran  
3521 International Court, NW,  
Washington, DC 20008  
Email: embassy@egyptembassy.net

Please take action as soon as possible until August 12th, 2026

Click [here](#) to report your action(s) on Second UA 10.26. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.