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Dear Counsellor,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the arbitrary detention of activist Moaz Al-Sharqawy, targeted solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights. Amnesty International learned that security forces arrested him from his Cairo home on 11 May and subsequently subjected him to an enforced disappearance for 23 days. During this period, they interrogated him without a lawyer present and beat him while blindfolded, which amounts to torture and other ill-treatment. His distraught family and lawyers had approached local police stations, the general prison administration and the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) to inquire about his whereabouts, and lodged a [complaint](#) with the Public Prosecutor's office on 12 May. Despite this, the authorities refused to provide his family and lawyers with any information about his fate or whereabouts or acknowledge his detention until he was brought before the SSSP on 3 June. After interrogating him about his contacts and finances, prosecutors ordered Moaz Al-Sharqawy's detention pending investigations into bogus charges of joining and funding a terrorist organization in Case number 540/2023.

Moaz Al-Sharqawy is held in the Badr 3 prison, amid heightened concerns for his safety and wellbeing given the well-documented patterns of torture and other ill-treatment at the prison, and the routine denial of family and lawyer visits and access to adequate healthcare. According to informed sources, Moaz al-Sharqawy's mental health gravely deteriorated following his previous arbitrary detention between September 2019 and March 2020, when he was provisionally released pending investigations. In May 2022, an Emergency State Security Court, convicted and sentenced him to 10 years' imprisonment and five years of police probation upon release in a grossly unfair and politically motivated group trial, which included former presidential candidate Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh and politician Mohamed al-Kassas. Moaz al-Sharqawy was not present at his trial and had lived in hiding since his conviction, further impacting his mental health.

I urge for the immediate release of Moaz al-Sharqawy, for the unjust conviction and sentence against him to be quashed, and for all charges against him to be dropped as they are solely related to the peaceful exercise of his human rights. Pending his release, he should be granted immediate access to his family, lawyers and any medical assistance he may require and be protected from further torture and other ill-treatment. An effective and impartial investigation into claims of his torture and other ill-treatment must also be conducted, with a view of bringing those responsible to justice in fair trials.

Yours sincerely,