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Dear Counsellor,

I write to you to express my concern over the prolonged arbitrary detention since 20 May 2019 of 28-year-old student Oqba Hashad solely for his brother's human rights activism. On 20 February 2024, a judge ordered Oqba Hashad's release on the grounds that his pretrial detention in Case No. 7769/2019 of the Supreme Security State Prosecution (SSSP) had exceeded the two-year limit under Egyptian law. However, instead of releasing him, security forces subjected him to enforced disappearance from 22 February to 2 March 2024. He was then taken to the SSSP, where prosecutors ordered his detention in a new Case No. 3391/2023 of the SSSP on similar bogus charges of joining and financing a terrorist group. The abusive practice, commonly referred to as "rotation," is systematically used by authorities to keep people locked up indefinitely without trial beyond the two-year limit stipulated by Egyptian law.

Following a childhood accident, Oqba Hashad's right leg was amputated above the knee, and since then he requires a prosthetic leg to move unassisted. On 4 January 2024, following his family's repeated requests and supporter mobilization, prison authorities provided Oqba Hashad with a new prosthetic leg since his old prosthetic broke in August 2022. However, it was unusable, as it was size 40 while Oqba Hashad needs a size 45. According to an independent medical report reviewed by Amnesty International, using it could lead to further health complications, including spinal and mobility related issues and skin irritation and scarring. On 10 January 2024, Oqba Hashad's family submitted a request to the prosecution for a doctor to visit him and take measurements for an appropriate prosthetic leg. Over a year later, on 4 February 2025, the prison administration called Oqba Hashad's mother to ask her to bring his previous prosthetic leg to prison and on 6 February, they visited his cell to take measurements with the declared aim to provide him with a functional prosthetic leg. However, at the time of writing, Oqba Hashad is yet to receive a new prosthetic leg.

Oqba Hashad's physical and mental health is extremely poor after nearly six years of arbitrary detention in cruel and inhumane conditions of detention. Not having a prosthetic leg had very negative consequences on his health, he suffers from severe back pain and moves with great difficulty. This situation is dramatically affecting his mental health, according to his relatives.

I urge you to ensure that Oqba Hashad is immediately and unconditionally released and all charges against him dropped as he is detained solely as a punishment for his brother's activism. Pending his release, he must be granted a suitable prosthetic leg as well as regular access to his family, lawyers and adequate healthcare, including in outside hospitals if necessary, and held in conditions that comply with international standards for the treatment of prisoners.

Yours sincerely,