



BACKGROUND

Egyptian prosecutors have requested the “maximum sentence” – death by hanging – for Mahmoud Abou Zeid, an Egyptian photojournalist known by the pseudonym of Shawkan.

Shawkan has been held for nearly five years for trying to cover a protest.

He was arrested on 14 August 2013 while trying to provide the Demotix photo agency with coverage of police breaking up a demonstration in support of deposed President Mohamed Morsi in Cairo’s Rabaa Al-Adawiya Square.

He is detained arbitrarily, as the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention said in 2016.



ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

This is a viral solidarity campaign for Shawkan, an Egyptian photojournalist who faces a possible death sentence when his trial resumes on 10 April.

The idea is to create a campaign around a simple idea: Take a photo of yourself miming the act of taking a photo, as Shawkan did behind the caged area for defendants in the courtroom during a previous hearing.

And then post the photo with the hashtag #MyPicForShawkan on social networks from 10 April onwards.

The goal is to draw what is happening to Shawkan to the attention of the general public and international authorities.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN

POST SOME OF THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (TWITTER, FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM) TOGETHER WITH A PHOTO OF YOURSELF MIMING THE ACT OF HOLDING A CAMERA AND TAKING A PHOTO:

Shawkan is a photojournalist who could be sentenced to death. Why? For photographing a protest. This is unacceptable, so join in the @RSF_inter #MyPicForShawkan solidarity movement.

#MyPicForShawkan: @RSF_inter has launched a solidarity campaign to denounce the detention of a photographer in #Egypt and the death sentence he may receive. Support @ShawkanZeid by posting your photo.

#Egypt: @rsf_inter calls for the immediate release of Shawkan, a photojournalist facing a possible death sentence! In solidarity, you can post your photo with #MyPicForShawkan

Mobilize with @rsf_inter for Shawkan, a young photojournalist who is facing a possible death sentence in #Egypt! Post your support photo with #MyPicForShawkan

Taking a photo is not a crime, so we are joining the @rsf_inter campaign to prevent a death sentence for the Egyptian photojournalist Shawkan. #MyPicForShawkan

The photojournalist Shawkan has been in prison for nearly five years and is facing a possible death sentence for doing his job: photographing a demonstration. Everyone's support is essential, so I am participating in the #MyPicForShawkan movement.

In #Egypt, the photojournalist Shawkan has been jailed for nearly five years and could be sentenced to death. To help him, share this information and join the #MyPicForShawkan campaign!

While @AlsisOfficial is reelected with 97% of the vote, the photojournalist Shawkan is languishing in prison and is facing a possible death sentence for doing his job. Do something about it! Support the @rsf_inter #MyPicForShawkan movement.

ASK PEOPLE IN YOUR (PROFESSIONAL AND/OR PERSONAL) NETWORK OF CONTACTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CAMPAIGN AND TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT.

Accounts:

Shawkan: @ShawkanZeid

Egyptian president: @AlsisiOfficial

Reporters Without Borders : @rsf_inter/ instagram : rsfinternational

Journalists discredited, censored and jailed under Egypt's Sisi
<https://rsf.org/en/news/journalists-discredited-censored-and-jailed-under-egypts-sisi>

Egyptian prosecutors seek death sentence for photographer
<https://rsf.org/en/news/egyptian-prosecutors-seek-death-sentence-photographer>

Shawkan completes fourth year in prison for taking photos
<https://rsf.org/en/news/shawkan-completes-fourth-year-prison-taking-photos>

RSF calls again for Shawkan's release
<https://rsf.org/en/news/rsf-calls-again-shawkans-release>

Detained photographer has no place in political mass trial
<https://rsf.org/en/news/detained-photographer-has-no-place-political-mass-trial>