

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest. – Article 9, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

When Hanan Badr el-Din's husband disappeared in July 2013, her life changed. Her search for him led her to become a human rights defender working with others whose loved ones were also taken by the security forces. It also resulted in her arrest on false charges for which she faces five years in prison.

Hanan Badr el-Din last saw her husband on television, wounded and at a hospital after he attended a protest in July 2013. But when she went there, she couldn't find him. She searched police stations, prisons, hospitals and even morgues. No one could tell her what had happened to him.

Her husband's disappearance spurred Hanan to co-found a group tasked with finding the truth behind the disappearances. She has become a leading voice in exposing the many who have gone missing.

Hanan is a medical analysis specialist, held in Cairo's Qanatar Prison.

Hanan's husband Khalid Ezz el-Din is one of hundreds of people missing at the hands of Egypt's security forces. Every day, an estimated three to four people – mostly political activists, students, protesters, even school children – are taken by police or military, never to be seen again. Yet the government claims that disappearances don't exist in the country.

Women human rights defenders in Egypt are at often under attack because their activism is seen to threaten traditional power structures and gender roles.

Hanan defends the rights of the disappeared, we defend her rights. Tell Egypt to drop all charges against Hanan Badr el-Din and free her immediately.

*Human rights defenders like Hanan Badr el-Din are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.
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