

EGYPT:

**1000+ days in jail
for taking a photo**
Youth Action (Ages 9+)



© Ai Weiwei

Shawkan loves his camera. He uses the photos he takes to tell stories. Then he shares those reports with the public.

That is what Shawkan was doing on August 14, 2013. He grabbed his camera when he heard there was a huge crowd in downtown Cairo, Egypt's capital city. The crowd was angry that the government had thrown the former president out of office. Things got tense when police arrived with guns and even tanks.

Shawkan began snapping photos. He planned to use them to report on the protest. It was important, he thought, to inform people inside and outside of Egypt about what was happening.

Suddenly bullets started flying. "It was like a Hollywood movie," said Shawkan. "It felt like we were in the middle of a war." Except the bullets were real. And the tanks were real. Many people died and many were hurt.

When police found out that Shawkan is a journalist, they grabbed him and tied his hands together. They punched him and used a belt to whip him.

Today Shawkan is in Cairo's Tora Prison.

For taking photos, Shawkan was arrested, hurt and jailed. When he appeared in court in May, he told the judge: "Taking pictures isn't a crime." He's right. Urge Egypt to free Shawkan now.

No one has the right to hurt you.

*No one has the right to imprison
you unjustly.*

*Articles 5 & 9, Universal
Declaration of Human Rights*

To take action, go to the next page.

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**





Show Shawkan he's not alone.

Write or tweet a message of support for Shawkan. He might like to know if you have a camera and what you take photos of.

Free Shawkan
Ahmed Abu Seif
211 E. Ohio St. Apt #2523
Chicago, Illinois 60611, USA

Postage: \$1.20

Please write a letter to the Public Prosecutor.

- ◆ Start with Dear Counsellor.
- ◆ Tell him how old you are or where you writing from.
- ◆ Explain that Shawkan is in jail just for taking photos and that is not a crime.
- ◆ Ask him to free Shawkan now.

Send your message to

Nabil Sadek
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Madinat Al-Rihab
New Cairo, Egypt

Postage: \$2.50

