



# Amnesty International

## Group 524

### December 2019



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**December Meeting: Monday, Dec. 9 – 6:00 p.m. – Calvary Episcopal**  
**January Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 21 – 7:00 p.m. – Providence Heights**

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#### December and January Meetings

In December, as always, Group 39's annual Write for Rights event will be taking the place of our group's regular monthly meeting. That date is **Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**. The event will run from 6:00 to 9:00, and will be held at the usual location – Calvary Episcopal Church. Details – including the street address of the church – can be found in the event announcement on Page 2. Next month, as you can see above, we will meet on **Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**, at our usual time and location.

This month's newsletter is being sent out early, in order to serve as a reminder to join us at the Write for Rights gathering, which is the Pittsburgh component of Amnesty International's worldwide 'Write for Rights' action.

For 'Write for Rights 2019', Amnesty sent out 10 cases for groups around the world to focus on. The target countries are: Belarus, Canada, China, Egypt, Greece, Iran Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, and South Sudan.

In October the China case was our letter-writing opportunity. In November, we had the case targeting the government of Greece. This month we focus on Egypt, calling for information about **Ibrahim Ezz El-Din**, a human rights worker who was abducted by four security officers on June 11, 2019. Egyptian officials will not even tell his family where he is being held. The case sheet material can be found on Pages 3 and 4, and on Page 5 is a model letter.

We hope you can join us at Calvary Episcopal Church on December 9<sup>th</sup>, to add your efforts to the work of thousands of Amnesty letter-writers around the world. See you there!

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Amnesty International Group 524

Meeting Schedule: Third Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting Location: Providence Heights  
9000 Babcock Blvd., Allison Park, PA 15101



Contact John Warren (jf.warren@verizon.net or 412-766-2506) for more information on material in this mailing, or visit the Amnesty USA website ([www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org)) or the website of Amnesty International Group 39 ([amnestypgh.org](http://amnestypgh.org)).

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Pittsburgh: Group 39's Write for Human Rights Event



## INVITATION! AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WRITE FOR RIGHTS EVENT IN PITTSBURGH

Group 39 of Amnesty International – Pittsburgh, and many other inspiring Pittsburgh rights groups and community leaders warmly welcome you to attend our annual Write-for-Rights event

Write for Rights (W4R) is Amnesty International's largest annual human rights campaign. This year, all the Write for Rights cases are for individuals under the age of 26. Every year, near International Human Rights Day, we hold a "write-a-thon" to generate letters of support on behalf of prisoners of conscience and other individuals at risk around the world.

Letter writing on behalf of prisoners of conscience is a mainstay of Amnesty International's grassroots activity.

Please join us!

**When: Monday, December 9, 2019  
6-9pm (drop by anytime)**

**Where: Calvary Episcopal Church  
315 Shady Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206**

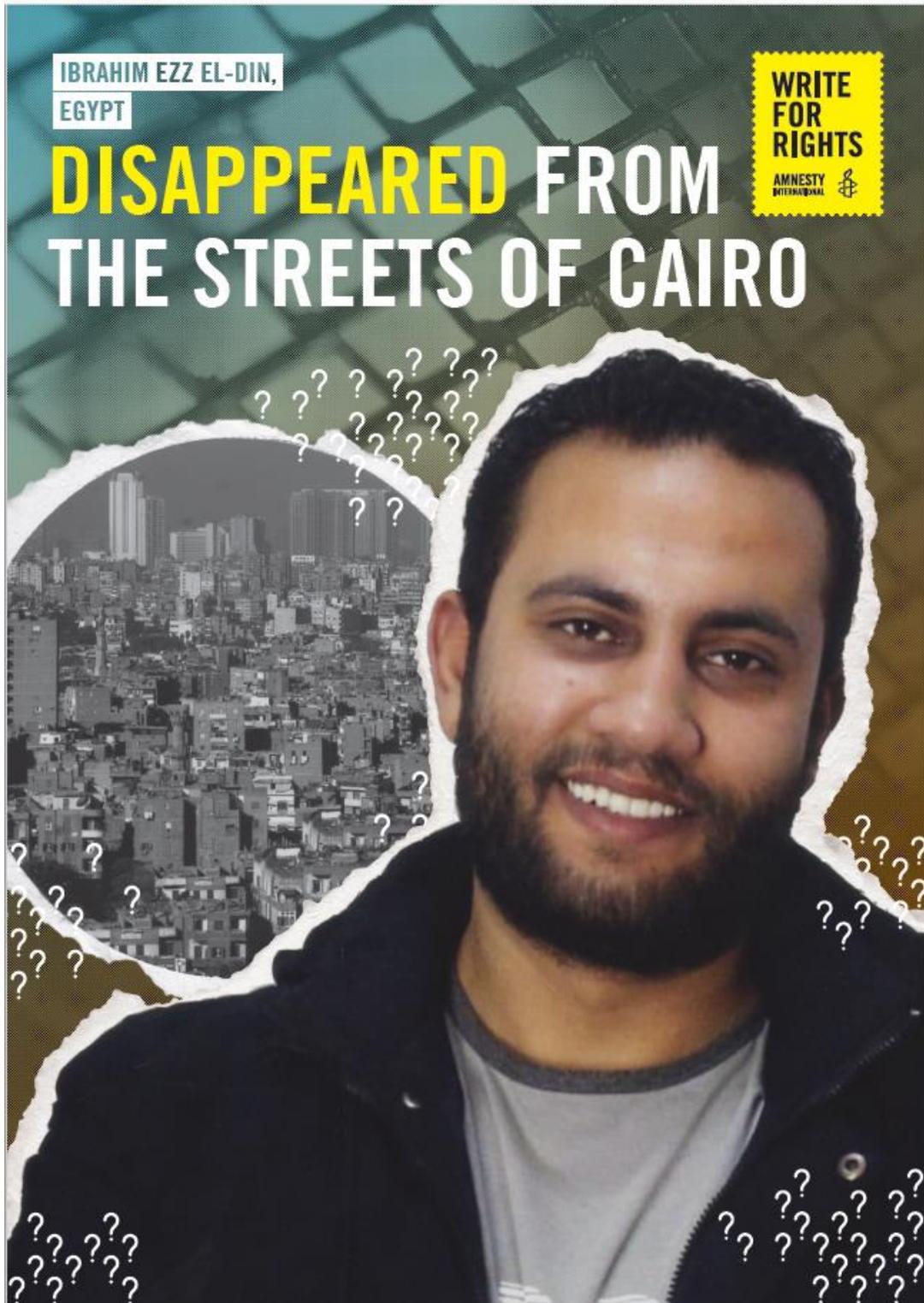
This year marks the 33rd annual gathering in Pittsburgh. During the event, you can contribute to our goal of writing between 500 and 1000 letters on current human rights cases.

Stop in and stay as long as you can. Write letters. Talk to other activists. Check out information tables about local groups working in Pittsburgh on local, national and international issues. Fortify yourself with the free refreshments.

Candlelight Ceremony and City Council Proclamation at 7:30 pm.



Egypt: 2019 Write for Rights Case



## Egypt: 2019 Write for Rights Case (continued)

### IBRAHIM EZZ EL-DIN

#### EGYPT

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din is a 26-year-old human rights researcher who lives in Cairo, Egypt. He loves his job, where he researches and reports on people's access to safe and affordable housing in Egypt – a basic human right. When not working, Ibrahim loves to draw and is interested in design. He's a huge football fan, always keeping up with his local team, Zamalek Sporting Club.

On the evening of 11 June 2019, Ibrahim was walking home when four security officers dressed in plain clothes surrounded him and arrested him. When his mum found out, she went straight to the local police station, but the police told her Ibrahim was not there, and denied that he was detained at all. Ever since that night Ibrahim's family have been trying to find out what happened to him. They've had no answers at all.

Ibrahim is the fifth person linked with his organization, the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms, to have been arrested in just three years. Hundreds of people like Ibrahim have been forcibly disappeared and held in prison for months, all without ever being brought to trial. Many have been arrested simply for expressing their opinions peacefully, criticizing the authorities, or standing up for human rights – from journalists to football fans and even politicians.

Tell the Egyptian authorities to reveal where Ibrahim is.



#### WRITE TO THE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES

Tell them to reveal where Ibrahim is, give him access to his family and lawyers and protect him from torture. Tell them to release Ibrahim unless he is charged with an internationally recognized crime.

*Public Prosecutor Nabil Sadek  
Office of the Public Prosecutor  
Madinat al-Rehab  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt  
Fax: +20 225 774 716*

*Salutation: Dear Sir*

#### SHOW IBRAHIM'S FAMILY YOU'RE WITH THEM

Send your messages of friendship and hope, so they can keep up the fight in their search to find out what has happened to Ibrahim.

*The family of Ibrahim  
Ezz El-Din  
c/o: The Egyptian Commission  
for Rights and Freedoms  
4A, Al-Saraya al kobra,  
Garden City – Cairo, Egypt*

Report your letters at:  
[amnestyusa.org/w4r/report](https://www.amnestyusa.org/w4r/report)

**WRITE A LETTER  
CHANGE A LIFE**

December 2019  
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Images:  
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**Egypt: 2019 Write for Rights Case (continued)**

*In early October, AIUSA made available to local groups the Write for Rights case material. As noted in our October newsletter, this enables our group to use one case per month in our Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan newsletters, in addition to the letters written at the Write for Rights event.*

*We have been unable to determine why AIUSA no longer includes a copy to the country's Washington embassy in the sample letters that are distributed, but the early release of the case material gives us plenty of time to make that addition to each sample letter. Here is the letter appealing to the government of Egypt in behalf of Ibrahim Ezz El-Din.*

Public Prosecutor Nabil Sadek  
Office of the Public Prosecutor  
Madinat al-Rehab  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

Dear Sir:

I am concerned for the life and safety of Human Rights researcher, **Ibrahim Ezz El-Din**.

On the evening of 11 June 2019, Ibrahim was walking home when four security officers dressed in plain clothes surrounded him and arrested him. When Ibrahim's family and lawyers asked where he was, police denied that he was ever detained.

Ibrahim is the fifth person linked with his organization, the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms, to have been arrested in just three years. Hundreds like Ibrahim have been forcibly disappeared. They are held in secret detention for months, without ever being brought to trial and with no access to their lawyers or families and no external judicial oversight, putting them at a higher risk of torture and mistreatment.

Many have been arrested simply for expressing their opinions peacefully, criticizing the authorities, or standing up for human rights. This pattern of abuse must end.

Please reveal where Ibrahim is, give him access to his family and lawyers and ensure that he is protected from torture and mistreatment. Release Ibrahim unless he is charged with an internationally recognized crime.

Yours sincerely,

cc: Ambassador Yasser Reda  
3521 International Court NW  
Washington, DC 20008