



SHAWKAN, EGYPT

“It was like a Hollywood movie,” said Shawkan. Except the bullets were real. The teargas was real. The tanks descending on protests across Egypt were real. And the 1,000 people who were killed were all too real.

Mahmoud Abu Zeid, better known as Shawkan, was only doing his job. A photojournalist, he was covering a sit-in on 14th of August 2013 in Cairo, when security forces swept in.

“It was like a Hollywood movie,” he wrote later. “It felt like we were in the middle of a war. There were bullets, tear gas, fire, police, soldiers and tanks everywhere.”

Shawkan used his camera to capture the mayhem around him. Police and soldiers had been deployed across the country to stamp out dissent where they found it. It was the bloodiest incident in Egypt’s recent history, claiming some 1,000 lives in one day.



When police found out Shawkan was a journalist, they arrested him. They tied his hands together with plastic cables that cut through his skin, bloodying his wrists. They punched him and whipped him with a belt. Today he is held in Cairo's notorious Tora Prison, and although he has Hepatitis C, he isn't getting the medical care he needs.

It's been three years since Shakwan was jailed. In a recent court hearing he told the judge: "Taking pictures isn't a crime." He's right.

URGE EGYPT TO DROP ALL CHARGES AGAINST SHAWKAN AND FREE HIM IMMEDIATELY

Write to the Public Prosecutor of Egypt

Call on him to drop all charges against Shawkan and release him without delay.

Nabil Sadek
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Madinat Al-Rihab
New Cairo, Egypt
Salutation: Dear Counsellor

Send Shawkan a letter of solidarity and show him he's not alone

Write or tweet messages of support for Shawkan, so he knows that he is not alone and that we are many fighting for his release. We advise that solidarity letters sent to Shawkan do not mention Amnesty International.

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

Twitter: @ShawkanZeid (with hashtag #FreeShawkan)