

6th June 2025

Laila Soueif accepts glucose drip to enable daughter Sanaa to fly to Egypt for prison visit with Alaa

Sanaa Seif has flown to Egypt to visit her brother Alaa Abd el-Fattah in prison today (Friday June 6th), in a visit allowed for the Eid holiday in Egypt. Laila Soueif has accepted a glucose drip to allow time for Sanaa to travel to Egypt to visit Alaa, and then return to London to be with her mother in hospital.

Before flying to Egypt, Sanaa Seif said: “I told my mother I couldn’t leave to see Alaa if I thought she was going to die while I was gone. So she has agreed to accept a dose of glucose to give me time to get to Egypt and back.”

Laila Soueif was admitted to St Thomas Hospital last Thursday (29th May) and is “at risk of sudden death” - according to her doctors - after more than 8 months of hunger strike. She is today (Friday 6th June) on Day 250 of her hunger strike, as she continues to consume no food, and her health remains in an extremely precarious situation. Since entering hospital her health has sharply deteriorated and she is now suffering from a significant loss of mobility, extreme weakness and fatigue, severe spreading of swelling (edema) and blood acidification (ketones).

Alaa Abd el-Fattah is also today on his 98th day of hunger strike, consuming nothing but herbal tea, black coffee and rehydration salts, in Wadi El-Natrun prison in Egypt. He began his hunger strike after hearing of his mother’s last hospitalisation in February.

Sanaa Seif added: “My mother is extremely, extremely weak. Every night we worry it will be her last. The doctors say it’s a miracle she’s still conscious. I told her I can’t risk losing her while I travel to Egypt - but I also can’t miss another prison visit with my brother. Alaa needs us. We’ve never skipped prison visits for these ten years and now he’s all alone, on hunger strike, with no idea what’s happening out in the world, or to his mother. So she’s agreed to this bare minimum of glucose needed to keep her from dying until I get back.”

Laila Soueif has been warned [in a letter from a consultant doctor at St Thomas’ Hospital in London](#) that her medical vitals would “would not typically be compatible with consciousness.” She was also warned of a ‘clear risk’ of ‘irreversible damage to organs including heart, brain and kidneys’.

Yesterday (Thursday 5th June) the chairs of four key human rights APPGs - on media freedom, human rights, international law, and arbitrary detention - [wrote to the Prime Minister](#) to urge him “to consider strengthening the UK’s approach without further delay, to advance Mr Abd el-Fattah’s case, demonstrate Britain’s commitment to the human rights of its citizens, and end this family’s anguish”.

The letter was signed by Sir John Whittingdale MP (APPG Media Freedom), Fabian Hamilton MP (APPG Human Rights), Brendan O'Hara MP (APPG International Law and APPG Arbitrary Detention) and Tim Roca MP (APPG Arbitrary Detention).

On the same day Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee Emily Thornberry MP called on the government to “do more and apply maximum pressure on Egypt” to secure Alaa’s release and save Laila’s life [in a statement on X](#). She also [wrote to the Foreign Secretary David Lammy](#) to say that “no tool of diplomacy should be off the table” in Alaa’s case, and that she hoped that “swift action” by the government “secures the release of Alaa Abd el-Fattah and brings relief to his mother”.

This week renowned human rights lawyer [Baroness Helena Kennedy](#) said the government should consider taking a case against Egypt at the ICJ, and the imposition of sanctions against Egypt. The former [British Ambassador to Egypt](#) John Casson has meanwhile recommended that the Foreign Office should revise official travel advice to ‘caution against travel to Egypt’ in light of the continued unlawful imprisonment of a British citizen and lack of consular access in this case.

Last week (Wednesday 28th May) it was announced that the [United Nations’ Working Group on Arbitrary Detention \(UNWGAD\)](#) have ruled that Alaa Abd el-Fattah is arbitrarily detained in Egypt and that Egyptian authorities therefore have an obligation to release him immediately under international law.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has given his personal commitment on a number of occasions to securing Alaa’s freedom. [Most recently at Prime Minister’s Questions on the 21st May he said](#): “It is incredibly important we do everything we can in this case. I’ve met Laila [Alaa’s mother] and given her my commitment to do everything I possibly can. I have had a number of contacts myself but I’m not going to stop doing everything within my power to secure release.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

For media enquiries or requests for interviews with Alaa’s family please email freedomforalaa@gmail.com or contact Huw Jordan at +447729888709.

More information at www.freealaa.net

PHOTOS OF LAILA IN HOSPITAL AND MEETING WITH KEIR STARMER

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yXb6LkFsgiZa_AgwtGRk2hfuNcS55Hyw?usp=sharing